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THE
ILLUSTRATED HISTORICAL & PICTURESQUE
GUIDE TO CORFE CASTLE,

WAREHAM, its NEIGHBOURHOOD, the ANTIQUITIES of PURBECK, &c.



THE GREAT KEEP or KINGS TOWER, from the SAXON WALL near the PRIESTS TOWER

Dorset

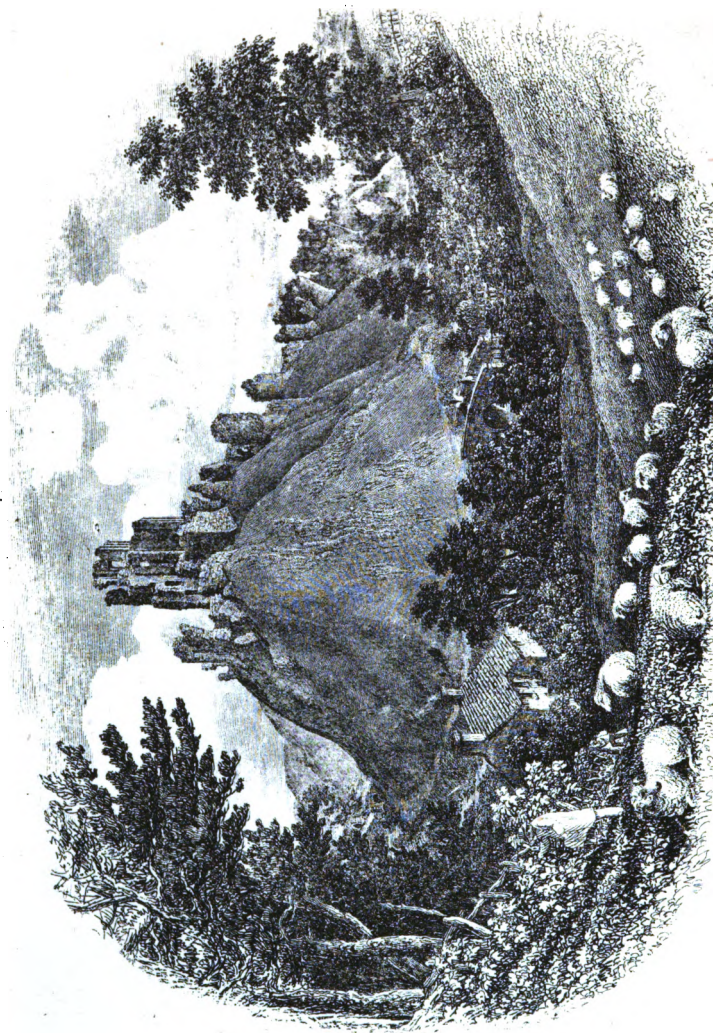
PHILIP BRANNON, ARCHT CIVIL ENGR &c.

POOLE, Published by RIC^d SYDENHAM
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Direct 16° 15'







Co. St. Castle with the Church & Town from Alexander Hill.
 The Hill in the foreground & Camp Bridge in the distance.

THE ILLUSTRATED
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE
GUIDE TO CORFE CASTLE.

BY PHILIP BRANNON.

FOURTH EDITION.

[ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]

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1878.





PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

The present is the fourth volume of the series of Guides embracing the south-west coast of Hants and the south coast of Dorset, and is specially devoted to the illustration of the most ancient town and fortress in Great Britain.

The Author presents it to the public with confidence that it will meet with a favorable reception, because, although he is conscious it is marked by many defects, he feels he has done his utmost to prepare a really useful hand-book, in strict accordance with the principles that should guide the composition of such works. Nothing but the facts of history is drawn from extraneous sources ; everything that could be ascertained by personal inspection and careful research has been so investigated ; and these pages are thus in great part the transcript of careful notes made whilst viewing the scenes they describe.

To one feature of this volume he begs to invite the attention of the public more especially. The venerable

Palace Fortress of Corfe has never been described with fulness, nor even with tolerable correctness. The author has here brought his practical professional pursuits to bear in the illustration of perhaps the most interesting and valuable example of British stronghold in the empire ; and he trusts that the detailed descriptions in the body of the work, and the referenced plan and glossary, will enable the most unacquainted with architectural and engineering questions to understand and enjoy the exquisite features of Corfe, and aid the learned to a more perfect and rapid review of them.

August, 1860.

ADVERTISEMENT TO THE FOURTH EDITION.

The rapid and continuous sale of the former editions of this work have given the most gratifying evidences of its acceptableness with the public. It therefore requires no explanation or apology to introduce this new and improved edition, which is now exclusively devoted to Corfe Castle.

June, 1878.

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CORFE CASTLE.

Introductory Remarks.

THE history of the gigantic ruin through which we purpose to conduct our readers is one of no ordinary interest, even considered without reference to that of the surrounding district, rendered memorable as it is by the noble deeds of Alfred at Wareham, and the first great naval victory of the English at Swanage. History and tradition, however, deal specially with our subject by relating the conversion of Corfe Castle into the palatial fortress of the wise, energetic, and truly princely Edgar, presenting us with the first manifestations of that national greatness, which, though developed under the domination of other races, must date its commencement with this period, and becomes strictly connected in its beginning with Purbeck.

But to the glorious light beaming from these hills followed a time of calamity and sorrow to England,—her day of deepest mourning originating in the same place. The Saxon power, which had culminated on the mount of Corfe, was there stricken down with a blow as fatal to it as to the Confessor himself, when he fell beneath the dagger of his ferocious step-mother. And though the riven arch which spans the site of that murder is not the same that bore witness to its horrors, still the traveller may track out all its traditional circumstances as he sits amidst the ruins, with the king's bridge below his feet, and Wareham in the distance, recalling all the solemn rites which testify the sorrow of the people and the clergy, and the divine displeasure signified by the revulsion of the noble animals, which fond and fanciful

tradition has clothed with an intelligence and feeling more notable than that of Balaam's ass. Then, the shattered dungeons on the mount, and the distant town, tell of the lingering anguish and savage tormentors of the faithful Peter of Pomfret, and the wretched prisoners doomed to a more lingering and terrible death; while the ingenious precision of the gallows and drop, leaving the mechanism of the Old Bailey behind as the more clumsily barbarous of the two, tell us of the summary atrocities that kept the vulgar hinds from infringing on the laws of "the king's forest." Then, the violence of De Mauly, the imprisoned Maid of Brittany, the sufferings of the feeble Edward II., and the tragedy of the unfortunate Edmund, Earl of Kent, complete a series of barbarous deeds that make the elaborate destruction of the fortress—to the utter impossibility of reconstruction or repair—like the sentence pronounced against the cities that for the bitterness of their iniquity were to be ruined heaps and the habitations of owls for ever.

Yet, while ferocities like these seem at times to envelope with gloom that sunny hill, there is much to cheer us as we read the indication of high civilization in the proudest periods of our history. The connection of a neighbouring family with the architect (the King's carpenter) of the Conqueror; the consummate ingenuity and admirable masonry of the works executed, probably designed by the great Pembroke, but afterwards carried out by Plunkenet and others; the remodelling of the whole as a palace for the Lady Margaret, mother of Henry VII., all still distinctly exhibited in the vast shattered masses; the possessing of it by Sir Christopher Hatton as the present of "good Queen Bess;" and the heroic Lady Banks' occupation and defence, are lights on the matter which refresh us almost as much as other deeds depress. Nor can we look on the utter ruin of this magnificent structure without feeling it is one of the great seals set to that final settlement of the Constitution of England, which makes this the freest nation in the world, and for ever renders futile the attempts of either King, Nobles, or Commons to disturb the rights and liberties of the other sections of the state.

To the architect and the archæologist the remains of Corfe Castle will be found to possess unusual value, significance, and beauty. The peculiar features seem never to have been clearly observed, all the descriptions which have yet been published falling far short of justice to its picturesque beauty ; and no writer has even attempted to point out the characteristics of the structure as a work of military engineering, presenting the most perfect development of the art at the periods of the several constructions. We have again and again visited and minutely examined every part ; and whilst we have invariably found some new feature or circumstance to attract our attention, and gratify our professional taste, in the evidences of consummate skill on the part of the architects and builders of the edifice, we still perceive many points requiring investigation, of the deepest interest, but enveloped in difficulties by the chaotic confusion which the parliamentarians produced in their zealous pursuit of the work of destruction.

It may be interesting to the reader to know how far the particular history of Purbeck Island—Corfe especially—has been written. We have as yet only met with the two works containing any facts on the subject which have been already mentioned in the preface. The first is Hutchins's History of Dorset, containing many valuable notices of the Castle, town, and neighbouring places, but which previously to the admirable enlarged edition recently published, comprehended very little in the way of description or reference to architectural or engineering matters of any value. This work, however, furnished the materials of all previous guides, alike in history and description. The second is that very interesting work "The story of Corfe," rendered doubly attractive to the visitor as the production of a descendant of the Lord Chief Justice whose lady achieved such a reputation for valour within these walls. It contains a great variety of anecdotes of persons associated with the history of Corfe, and many valuable data as to important circumstances, throwing a light on the former condition of this sumptuous castle-palace. Some years since there was also a very interesting and well-written romance called "Keneswitha," in which this place was the scene, and the time was that of the

Confessor, the hero being the brother of the murdered king. The author (Mr. James Clark, of Poole,) introduced many admirably drawn pictures of the country, and its condition at that period, but, as might be anticipated, the architectural descriptions were not quite of the kind satisfactory to those acquainted with such buildings, and dealt extensively in vast subterranean chambers, protracted passages, and concealed doors, of which we believe Corfe possessed a less than usual proportion.

Without exception, however, the new edition of Hutchins' Dorset is one of the completest and most reliable of local histories, in which every period susceptible of being cleared up by documentary or archæologic research is so dealt with as to leave little ground for difference of opinion as to the conclusion it presents, which renders it a matter of considerable regret that in some main points we may not arrive at precisely the same view.

With these general introductory remarks we shall pass on to the history of the place, and shall endeavour to present a digest in the narrative form of all that has been written on the subject, and then conduct the visitor to every point of interest, with the *bona fide* notes and sketches made during our delightful visits to the localities described. With regard to the surrounding district, however, the importance and extent of Corfe Castle will render it necessary to exclude all but general references, and the reader is therefore referred for details thereof to the volume specially devoted to its illustration.



CHAPTER I.

Historical Outlines.

IT is next to impossible to give a clear conception of the history of any separate building apart from the towns and district in which it is placed, and with which its vicissitudes have been inevitably associated, so as to gratify the deep interest which the well-read man feels everywhere investing a spot which has been a theatre of human action for near twenty-five centuries. To enter at once into the most exciting periods of British history—to clothe these hills with the phantoms of past deeds of ruthless cruelty, and to call up again the gleams of historic light, which have hence marked a people's advances—it is almost necessary to consider the history of Corfe Castle and Wareham together, and in relation to the adjoining portions of south Dorset; but, regretting that the narrow limits of a handbook prevent our doing so in the present manual, we are reluctantly compelled to refer our readers to that volume of the series especially devoted to Swanage and the Isle of Purbeck.

The Romance of the History of Corfe.

The Mount of Corfe, there can be no doubt, was from the earliest times a British hill fort, and this, with Flower Barrow, westward, the fine position and defences of Wareham and the strong works of Bere northward, held complete command over the country. The fact that there is no remnant of early earth-works there is a proof of our statement, because it was considered of such pre-eminent value as a position for defence and chieftain or regal occupation, that it was the very first

of the hill forts in the south of England which was converted by the more effectual defences of skilfully planned and well-executed stone walls into a castle properly so called. It appears to us, as the hill (of a reneform shape at its summit) corresponds to that of Hamilton (Hamel-Dun) Hill, near Blandford, and the practice was to encircle the brow with earth-works, that the original earth-works assumed that form and remained on the southern side of the hill top till the time of the Protector Pembroke; and that the north-western or higher point was not only always protected by an additional entrenchment, but was converted early in the Romano-British period into a strong citadel, some fragments of the original herring-bone masonry of which still remain.

But perhaps the most interesting fact, and that which most enables us to realise the living activity, comparative civilization, and progress in the arts at this period, of the people of Wareham and Purbeck, and the importance of Corfe in relation to them both, is the undeniable extent and perfection of their manufactures in turnery ware. The Kimmeridge jet workers carried in early ages to great perfection the production of rings for armlets and anklets, pateræ, amulets, and other ornaments, all turned with accuracy, polished and ornamented with skill, and altogether wrought to a high degree of beauty. The workshops appear to have been at Kimmeridge, close to the pits of the coal or "jet," and their indications are frequently discovered. Those of the workmen who did not reside at Wareham probably had their houses on the site of the present village street, and the road appears to be in the direction of the original British way. The access would have been through the pass of Corfe from Wareham, and the use of the position of that fortress is thus further illustrated. Still more important is the fact that as the Belgæ had attained a great proficiency in one of the most difficult descriptions of the skilled artisan's work—that of the wheelwright—so as to command and supply the trade of the continent with wheels, the use of the lathe to such extent and perfection in Purbeck justifies the assumption that the Island was one of the principal seats of that manufacture; and the people who, in addition to all the pursuits of agriculture, hunting, fishing, war, and seafaring ability, carried on such labours of

production, were in no mean state of social and intellectual advancement, and the castlement of Corfe therefore became the defensive centre of an important manufacturing district.

But, as already intimated, we believe it was during Roman occupation that the summit of Corfe was strengthened, though at the latest date that can be assigned to the portions in question, it must be considered of the earliest Saxon. Subsequently it became one of the favourite resorts of the West Saxon princes, who came hither to hunt in the forest of Purbeck; and about 812 the last king of this line under the Heptarchy—Brithric—was buried at Wareham, the nearest town to Corfe.

Mr. Bankes supposes that the castle of Corfe was a simple keep tower on a hill summit, but it is evident that there was even then an extensive outer court wall or walls, indicated by the herring-bone work, in addition to the keep internally, and many more ancient earth-works externally,* and as the Castle at Wareham was then the strongest place in Wessex, the former was probably even more complete and advanced as a castellated structure.

Alfred, in founding Shaftesbury Abbey, of which his daughter, Ethelgiva, was first abbess, conferred upon it great privileges in connection with Corfe, and having made the treaty with Hubba, which assigned to the Danes so large a portion of England, he anticipated the enjoyment of peace, science, and religion.

Although the incursions of faithless hordes for a long time disappointed his hopes, his victories were at length followed by a time of peace, on which every Englishman loves to dwell, and which was apparently marked by great improvements at this place. The castle at Corfe or Corfe's Gate—the very name shewing the character which attached to the position—was strengthened; and there is little doubt that he was here some time, as the prestige it acquired as a regal palace seems to have dated from this time.

* There does not seem a shadow of doubt as to the fact of this second ward being properly walled in the early times; and if so, then the keep above must have been even earlier, whatever may be the date of the buildings now actually on the hill summit.

With the reign of Edgar, however, commences the period of greatest interest in the history of this locality. That energetic king here recognised the points most important to secure the safety of the coast. At the one was a safe port for his fleet, with a more strongly positioned and fortified town than any other on his sea-board ; and at a moderate distance, in the midst of one of the finest and most secluded forests of chase, a fortress which moderate courage could render impregnable. The latter, therefore, he fixed on for his residence ; and making a special object of the enlargement of the castle, he procured from Italy the best masons ; and our conviction is that the great central keep tower was constructed under his superintendence. It appears to us one of the earliest, if not the very first, pieces of architecture of a revived character in this country, and is remarkable as being in its simple form a complete type of the great keep towers of the Norman period, in place of the more low and simple towers just capping the keep mounds of the earlier Saxon Castles, like that of Carisbrooke, and such as Wareham seems to have been. But, before he could complete the more important work of establishing security and peace to the English nation on a solid basis, death swept him away at the age of thirty-three, and settling Corfe as part of the dowry of his widow Elfrida—that disgrace to her sex by the deep atrocity of her crimes—very speedily rolled from the portals of this castle a torrent of woe on the country she might have blessed.*

The story of the murder of the worthy and unfortunate Edward the Martyr, son-in-law of Elfrida, is one of those which, though often told, still thrills and touches our hearts

* We retain the generally received view of the first architectural development of the Castle, notwithstanding the editors of *ut* chins throw doubt over the whole of the traditions ascribing the building to Edgar, or the residence of Elfrida to this site. As to the former, they are disposed to attribute it to the Conqueror or his immediate successors. As to the latter, they believe it to have been "a house" on another site in the neighbourhood, upon land belonging to the Abbey of Shaftesbury, and not royal domain. The indisposition of the Normans to recognise any Saxon work, and the fact that the style of work in the keep is in several portions such as Italian workmen of the date would have wrought, with other considerations, lead us to incline strongly to believe the substantive truth of the older narrative. At the same time the arrangements in Norman castles, and even houses, and the successive improvement—involving in Corfe the making of new entrances and windows, and casing of the old work—account for details that appear to be of later Norman execution.

on every rehearsal ; and though the mysticism of monks and the love of the people have shed a mythic halo round the tale, still the traveller may, from the shattered pile of Corfe, picture to his imagination its every scene, and shudderingly portray the terrors of that beclouded era. Edward was only fifteen years old, but appeared likely to bear well the mantle of his patriot father, and had already secured the favour of priests and people. But the queen mother, a strange compound of courage and perfidious craft,—of regal greatness and debased ferocity, after vainly endeavouring to supplant his claim with that of her son, his younger and half-brother, the pusillanimous Ethelred, only watched an opportunity for his destruction. Whether the young king was suspicious of her designs, or that a distant coldness only influenced him, there seems to have been an indisposition to accept the proffered hospitalities of the palace-castle. When, therefore, he was hunting in the royal forest, and the day had waned, and he had been separated from his attendants, amidst the thickets and clustering timber of that primæval forest where is now but heath and field, he rode up to the gate of the castle and desired to see his brother. That request it seems was not accorded ; but Elfrida, seizing the opportunity, herself proceeded to the gate under pretence of welcoming him there, and admitting him to the fraternal conference in the halls of the mansion. Whether the fatal blow was struck by herself or one of the trusty attendants ready for any atrocity at her command is not certain, but notwithstanding popular tradition to the contrary, we are inclined to believe it was the latter, by arrangement to take as a signal for the foul stroke the offering of the goblet of wine or the very kiss of peace from the dowager herself. Spurring his horse, the unfortunate monarch galloped from the gate, and soon fainting from loss of blood, fell from his seat, and was dragged some distance, and cruelly mangled on the road. According to some, the animal stopped at the spot where the church now is, and which was founded in memory of the event ; but others state it was at the bridge, which is still hence called King Edward's Bridge or King's Bridge, on the road to Wareham, over the Knowle River. Both are doubtless true, and that the fall took place in a very few seconds from the

infliction of the fatal stab, and therefore Edward first fell on the ground where the cross or the church was afterwards built, and entangled in the stirrup the bleeding sufferer was dragged over the rugged flints of the road which, then as now, wound round the castle hill to the crossings of the Knowle, Rempston, Creech, and Wareham roads. Here the servants of Elfrida, sent to ascertain the result of the proceeding, found the body, the horse patiently standing by its side. Affecting to have but discovered the murder, they lodged the mangled corpse in a cottage hard by, the only occupant of which was a widow stone blind ; but the hand of Providence is said to have filled the tenement with a wondrous light, to have suddenly restored sight to the aged one, and to have tracked every effort of the murderers at concealment, by exposing to universal knowledge and condemnation their hideous deeds. Vainly did they carry away the remains of the king, and throw it down a deep well, unseen by human witness ; for in the following year, fond tradition states a pillar of fire from Heaven notified the place of concealment, the undecayed body was rescued, and being carried to Wareham, was deposited, and awhile lay in state surrounded with heavenly light, in St. Mary's Church ; whilst the previously bad, scanty, and distasteful water of the well was succeeded by a gushing crystal fountain of delicious water, named after the now canonized Saint Edward, and at which numbers of pious devotees were healed of their maladies.*

* There is, to us it seems evident, far more of truth in these romantic traditions than is commonly supposed. It is quite probable that substantially the greater part of the monkish narratives is correct. The body was probably thrown into one of the neighbouring peat mosses, as the readiest mode of concealing it; the astonishing preserving power of peat would actually embalm the body; the presence of animal matter evolve at night a strong phosphorescent light, and the "pillar of fire," in this case an *ionis* not *farus*, would rest over it, and guide the grief stricken searchers after the beloved Edward. Then it was, but not on the first night, that it was taken to the nearest cottage, the lone blind woman's house. In the dark night the phosphorescence was unusually strong, so that even in her blindness (probably partial) she perceived it, and the body, now in some degree embalmed, was kept awhile in Wareham. Then the spring or well, which previously rose under and mingled with the peat and iron water, was walled about and protected, becoming sweet; and as the medicinal power of many of the tertiary springs has done much in the healing way, so might have this. Indeed there are many chalybeate springs to be found in these strata, as might be expected in a series where two considerable formations of iron exist—the Aggleston iron sands and the Hengistbury nodules, besides minor beds, and enormous quantities of the bisulphuret of iron, and the double salt of iron and alumina.

But not outwardly alone was displeasure evinced. Even Ethelred bitterly reproached his mother for her crime, which had deprived him of a noble-spirited and affectionate brother, and, exciting her rage, she furiously assaulted him with a huge wax taper, which Mr. Bankes thinks must have been a castle clock charged with metal balls to strike the hour by their fall, as even the Queen would have scarcely used an altar taper. The remembrance of his sufferings on this occasion acted so on his weak and sensitive mind that he ever afterwards detested even the sight of one of these tapers. Flying from the scene of her cruelty, she retired to her mansion at Bere, which, like Corfe and Wareham, boasted fortifications of British and Roman origin and use.

At length the sorrow and veneration of the people for their beloved Saint Edward demanded a more solemn funeral and magnificent resting place for his body ; and his old and fervently attached friend the Earl of Mercia summoned the bishop, abbots, and nobility to Wareham, with the Abbess Wolfrida, of Wilton, and her nuns, who were to perform the solemn rites. The sacred corpse was exhumed, and found wholly uncorrupted ; the odour of its sanctity immediately cured two lame persons, whose pious zeal had led their faltering steps to the place ; and amidst a wild excitement of religious fervour the remains were conveyed to Shaftesbury, and there deposited under the north side of the high altar. Still struggling to brave the indignation of the people,—to feign regret and affect innocence, Elfrida mounted her horse to join in the procession. But the animal moved not. One after another horse was brought ; but all, struck with the presence of divine wrath, refused to advance. Then the wretched woman is said to have essayed to follow on foot ; but her limbs failed to perform their office ; and the throng was not dishonoured by her presence. The church instituted three feasts in memory of Edward the Martyr,—March 18, the day of the murder, and February 18 and June 20, the days of removal of the corpse ; whilst Elfrida, whose hard heart and resolute effrontery gave way at length to penitence, endeavoured to atone for her crimes by founding the nunneries of Amesbury, in Wilts, and of Wherwell, in Hants, whilst she herself took the habit, and lived and died

a recluse. Thus in the bitterness of remorse ended the career of a woman whose deeds led to a series of unparalleled calamities to her family and country, and apparently caused the curse of blood to rest on generation after generation, until her last direct descendants were destroyed. It was ruinous to the dynasty of the Saxons, and obliterated all the results of Edgar's wise management.

Scorned and detested by the people, the Queen had lost all respect, and the country was left without any influential government, for her own son Ethelred was only seven years old at the time of the murder, and as he grew, his mental and moral incapacity for the high position he filled, and his excessive faltering and cowardly vacillation, gained for him the expressive sobriquet of "the Unready." The Danes, kept at bay for nearly half a century, renewed their invasions, and ravaged city and castle far and wide; and though Corfe was one of the few places which defied their efforts, Wareham, in its immediate vicinity, was amongst the first and most frequent to suffer.

In the eleventh century Ethelred died, and his son Edmund Ironside was murdered, but neither of his sons succeeded to the throne. Mr. Bankes observes, "The line of his descendants, excluded first by Norman usurpation and afterwards by the Normans, was restored to the crown after the lapse of 600 years, but it was restored to that fated royal line of whose destiny this ruined castle stands the monument—as it was the victim."

William the Conqueror showed his keen appreciation of the importance of the harbour and the fortress, if not, as Hodson believes, by being its founder, at least in fixing here the residence of "the king's carpenter," or rather of his principal architect and engineer, of whom the late Mr. Mowlem, a highly respected resident of Swanage, was the descendant. That important officer probably conducted the whole repairs and improvements of Corfe, and the entire re-building of Wareham Castle, when it was made a place of great strength. The former, it is believed, was held both then and afterwards by some great baron, as reward for services.

In the fifth of Stephen, Baldwin de Redvers seized on the castle of Wareham, which it is said was delivered to him by

the governor, and it was probable that it was ceded by the king, according to his mistaken policy, in the hope of conciliating those nobles to whom he gave the power of protecting themselves by building new castles. But the natural result of such absurdity compelled him to seek the restitution of the power so unwisely bestowed, and laying siege to several fortresses, he took Devizes, and invested Corfe, but again the castle was found impregnable.

In the reign of Henry II, the castle is spoken of as complete; and it is stated in the black book of the Exchequer, that five of the tenants of the Abbey of Cerve had to keep ward at Corfe one month in the year to the king's command.

In the Thirteenth Century

The greatest improvements were made, and, illustrative of them, Hutchins' editors have collated a number of references to the records of sums spent in the works done at Corfe Castle, shewing how important a place it was considered throughout the middle ages; but the most numerous are those which refer to the operations directed by king John, and those under Henry III.

With the reign of John, Corfe was again made the scene of tragedies, less terrible than former ones in their results as regarded the country, but not less painfully exciting in their details; and the dungeons in the basement of the keep, now buried in vast piles of ruin, and in the second or prison ward of the castle, became the place in which slow lingering death was awarded to many a noble spirit. This unworthy prince, to whom retirement from the open gaze of his ill-treated subjects seemed so acceptable, made Corfe Castle his residence, and here kept his court and regalia—gratified his vindictive spirit by the confinement of his victims beneath his feet as he trod the magnificent halls of the King's tower—and found in this unconquered fortress the protection his craven spirit sought, increased by the wide forest of Purbeck, which gave him at the same time abundant amusement in the chase. Here he planned his feigned expedition to France: hiring ships from Portsmouth, his barons and military tenants were summoned hither, and after being at sea two days he re-landed at Studland, which must have

been then a considerable place, and marched back to Corfe, concluding the whole mockery by the bitter practical joke of fining all those who had not attended his summons.

The first recorded victims of his ferocious hatred who perished in these dungeons, were Maud de Waleric the wife, and William the son, of William de Braose, who, having opposed John, had fled into France, probably little anticipating a vengeance so meanly cruel and unmanly would be wreaked on the unoffending members of his family. Then, on the defeat of Arthur, in Miravel, when Eleanor and two hundred knights were made prisoners, twenty-two of these, nobles of Anjou and Poictou, were doomed to perish in the same place, in the lingering tortures of starvation. At length the murder of Arthur excited the most universal indignation, and sealed the loss of his continental possessions; but every new judgment only seemed to urge him yet more to fill to overflowing the measure of his iniquity, and in 1213, this spot was again made the scene of his ingenious cruelty.

Peter de Pomfret, one of those noble spirits who in the middle ages chose the profession of a hermit's vow, the better to reprove the vices of their time by independent preaching, and the irresistible power of a pure life, seems to have been, like the Hebrew prophets, bold in denouncing wickedness in high places, and like them favoured with a prescience which almost justified his high pretensions. He had fearlessly prophesied that in the year 1213 John should be deprived of his crown, as the punishment of his iniquity, and when that year arrived, the king on the fifteenth of May surrendered "England and Ireland to God, to St. Peter and St. Paul, and to Pope Innocent and his successors," and confirmed his vassalage to the papal power by doing homage to Pandulf the legate. John, whose trembling cowardice had kept him from wreaking his vengeance on the anchorite whilst he thought the Divine judgment was impending over his regal state, believing the kingdom was now secured to him, dragged the prophet from his dungeon, to punish him as an impostor. De Pomfret courageously declared the prophecy had been fulfilled; but he was bound and dragged by horses over the rugged road to Wareham, then through

the streets of the town, and back to Corfe, where he was publicly gibbeted with his son,—Mr. Bankes says “on a gibbet within sight of the castle walls.” It may, however, have been on the gibbet which still remains in the middle ward; in the former case, tradition would probably have marked the site, as it had done with Edward the Martyr.

In the sixteenth of John, the Scotch hostages were received here from William Harcourt, who had them in charge, as stated in the king's writ, dated at Corfe; and the following year the barons and gentlemen made prisoners at Rochester Castle were confined here. After the signing of Magna Charta, depressed by chagrin, he retired for the last time to Corfe, thence he went to the Isle of Wight, and having issued orders for the garrisoning and provisioning of the royal castles, he went to Lynn, in Norfolk, and seeking to remove his treasures thence, the misfortunes which befel him in attempting to cross the head of the Wash caused his death in 1215.

The regency of Earl Pembroke, and the reign of Henry III., present circumstances of much interest in the local history. During the late king's life, this distinguished noble had well filled the office of Marshal of England; and his appointment to the protectorship was as beneficial to the country as it was honourable to him. Notwithstanding John had collected so large a proportion of the regal treasures, which were in great part lost in the closing disasters of his life, there were still left at Corfe a portion of the regalia; and when Henry, though but ten years of age, was to be crowned at Gloucester (4th Henry III.), Pembroke demanded them, with the crown, for use at the coronation, from Peter de Mauley, then constable of the Castle. The crown was a plain chaplet of gold, and it is supposed was the same formerly worn by some of our Anglo-Saxon monarchs.*

The castle, with the royal treasures and military stores, was soon after surrendered by De Mauley † (5th Henry III.)

* Mr. Bankes' Story of Corfe Castle.

† Peter De Mauley in this year accounts at the Exchequer for 7,000 marks spent in works on the Castle of Corfe, in the cost of the custody of Alianor the King's cousin, and of the daughters of the King of Scotland, and of Richard the King's brother, and also costs incurred by several visits of the King to Corfe after Louis, son of the King of France, came to England.

to the Protector Pembroke, and he appears to have lost no time in making the best use of the authority thus obtained. Those tenants of the dungeons who had survived the malevolence of John were released, and amongst them was Eleanor his neice, the Maid of Brittany, who had spent many years in close confinement here, and Isabel, sister to the Scottish King. It has been assumed that the coat of arms appearing on the north-eastern tower of the outer ward is that of the Protector Pembroke, but, as already mentioned, they are now proved to be those of Plunkenet a few years later.

When by the death of that distinguished nobleman the government had become infirm, the violent and lawless Peter de Mauley, after ten years absence, by force resumed possession of the castle, as well as that of Sherborne, "with the custody of the counties of Dorset and Somerset, and the forests, and detained in his hands, as other great men had usurped the king's castles and demesnes."*

In the reign of Henry III. great repairs and improvements were carried out. In the 20th, the two division walls of the wards were made or rebuilt; one being that from the keep to the second gateway, and the other that between the keep precinct and the west or second ward. Then walls were said to have been made in the place of the palisades, the very name shewing that some of the more ancient and simple forms of defence had been retained in the shape of timber work of stockades, but whether they were simply palisading chevaux de frises or abbattis formed work we have no means of judging.

But in the 47th Henry III., Henry, son of Richard Duke of Cornwall, and King of the Romans, on leaving the baron's party, by the king's precept, delivered through Philip Bassett, was invested with the custody of Corfe and Sherborne Castles, and was paid one hundred marks out of the revenues of the county to fortify both. Then, soon afterwards, when Simon de Montfort and the barons demanded possession of the most important royal castles as guarantees

* Trivet: Annal: quoted by Hutchins. .

of the king's good conduct, this occupies a prominent position.*

Notwithstanding the vicissitudes in the command and management of the fortress, the works of extension, reparation and improvement were carried on vigorously in the earlier and later years of this reign. It appears that the shield cut on the north-eastern tower is that of this constable's family, and not of Pembroke. This, together with the records quoted by Hutchins' editors, render it clear that the greater part of these works and the completion of some of them is to be ascribed to this period. The admirable execution of these and others, in accordance with the plans including them, but subsequently carried out, is worthy of the age in which Mediæval British Architecture reached its culminating point of classic excellence and engineering skill.

The materials used are in some cases suggestive of the probable ages of portions of the work, but cannot be relied on. Thus Hodson considers an action brought against Elias de Rebayne, constable of the castle in 5th Edward I., for digging stone at Holme, as deciding the age of those portions in which it is employed. The stone in question is the "tertiary grit" or ferruginous sand-stone which we have elsewhere termed the Agglestone iron-sands, and is met with in the country lying between the Castle and the Harbour of Poole; and where found is very near the surface, and thus easily quarried.

Perhaps the most interesting items of information gleaned from the records of this reign are particulars as to the formation, repairs, names and uses of particular towers and apartments, such as *Butavant*, which can be recognised, with others such as "*the chamber called Gloriette*," prisons called "*Swallwe*" and "*Malemit*," and towers called "*Cockayne*" or "*Cockayne*," and "*plenty*" or "*plentie*" which cannot be with certainty identified, except that, as to the last, the mention of a lead gutter between it and the "King's Hall" it must be considered as one of the cluster of keep towers, probably the Corridor or southern flank

* Hutchins, quoting Burton, says, "it was the third demanded by them, and the eleventh on the list."

tower. Special mention is also made of the "*Long Hall*," as well as the "*King's Hall*" and of the "new chamber beyond the gate." Interesting particulars are preserved as to the completion of the Gateway, and even the manufacture of the iron hinges and the gate itself, and of its temporary as well as its final hanging. The gate so described seems to have been the outer or first-ward gate.

Early in the reign of the first Edward, illustrating the strange vicissitudes which marked the history of those times, when the great strongholds were alternately converted into palaces and prisons for the same individuals and their families, the daughter of De Montfort Altaner, sailing from France under conduct of her brother Almaric, in order to be married to Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, they were both taken, near Scilly, and while the lady was placed under the protection of the queen, Almaric was imprisoned here and soon afterwards in Sherborne. In the 27th of the same reign there was an inquisition held for the liberties and privileges of the castle; and in the 34th of Edward I., these dungeons, which seemed by a bitter fatality to receive and punish no criminal, but to be devoted to the affliction of innocence, virtue, and patriotism, were selected as the most secure prison for the incarceration of the brave and noble patriots who fought under Bruce, and amongst them was Walter de Murrey or Moorreve, and at the same time William de Moorreve of Sanford.

Subsequent to the repairs and improvements above referred to, several of the governors appear to have not only neglected necessary repairs, but to have wantonly damaged the building, and converted to their own use and profit not only both the military stores and engines, but even the very materials of the structure itself, and to have stript it of its leaden roofs, and much of its most valuable timber and fittings. Then, as if a spell hung around the fortress—that those who strengthened it should suffer through it—the unfortunate Edward the Second took resolute steps to restore and equip it, thus unconsciously preparing a prison for himself and a trap for the destruction of his brother. In the fifteenth year of his reign he issued a writ to John Latimer, his constable or lieutenant, ordering him to provision and

re-fit the castle out of the revenues of his bailiwick, under great penalties, and to certify to the treasurers and barons of the exchequer what should be expended. But these liabilities did not enforce the works required, and four years afterwards he appointed John Peche to the charge of the castle and forest, and constituted a commission of enquiry to report on the state of the castle, which has preserved some interesting details. Hutchins says :

“Ed. II., by an inquisition taken at Corfe directed to several persons, shewing that the king had committed to John Peche the custody of this castle and the warren of Purbeck during pleasure, in the same manner as others had held it, and willing to know the state of both, heretofore and now, assigns two of them to survey the castle and warren, and enquire on oath concerning the truth of the premises. William de Chaldecote, John de Claville, William Scovile, William de Whyteclyve, John de Smedemore, and two more not of any note, jurors, say, that the *King's Hall* in the castle is decayed [*decesa*] to the damage of 100 marks, viz., part in the time of Simon de Montecacute, custos, to the value of 10 marks; in the time of H. de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, 70 marks; in the time of Robert Fitzpane, 20 marks; the tower called *Cocayngue* was damaged [*deterioratur*] in the time of Roger Damory, 100s.; the chapel of *St. Mary* within the 3rd gate, and the gate itself, was damaged in the time of H. de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, 40l.; the *Long Hall* was decayed in the time of the said earl to the damage of 80 marks; the Chamber called the *Parlour*, and the Porchea or chamber of the queen, in the time of the said earl, 20l. The other tower with the chambers and wardrobe in it, to the value of 100l, viz., in time of Simon de Montecacute, 100s., in the time of the Earl of Lincoln, 40l., in the time of R. Fitzpane, 30l., in the time of Richard Lovel, 100s., in the time of R. Damory, 100s. The greater outer gate and bridge before it, were damaged in the time of the Earl of Lincoln, 200l. The casements or shutters [*ostia fenestrarum*] with the irons of the windows and lead in divers places, carried away to the damage of 20l., viz., in the time of S. Montecacute, 40s., in the time of the Earl of Lincoln, 10l., in the time of R. Fitzpane, 60s., in the time of Richard Lovel, 20s., in the time of Roger Damory, 4l.; that the warren is well kept, and they knew of no transgression done there; that in the castle was no arms or victuals. Total of damages 510l.

Shortly after the repairs consequent on this inquisition, the base plots of Mortimer and the Queen against Edward

were successful, and being taken prisoner in 1326, he was imprisoned in Kenilworth, then deposed by Parliament and removed to Berkeley Castle in April 1327 ; consigned by indenture from Lancaster to the holding of the brutal Matravers and Gurney, being conducted by unfrequented roads at night, he was secretly brought hither and confined some weeks, and then hurried to Bristol and again to Berkeley Castle, and was murdered there in September in the same year.

In the beginning of Edward III., the last recorded tragedy in which Corfe Castle was a scene, took place in the sacrifice of Edmund, Earl of Kent, brother of the murdered Edward. And this, the last of that painful catalogue of oppressions and cruelties which we have briefly reviewed, spreading through a course of more than three hundred and fifty years, bears in the character, relationships, and even some of the names of the actors, striking resemblance to those with which the series commenced. Edmund, if he had ever countenanced the injustice done to his brother was at least deeply penitent for it, and Mortimer contrived by ingeniously devised false reports and evidence to delude his victim into a belief that he had only attended a mock funeral, and that his brother was really alive and closely confined in the dungeons of Corfe Castle. Stimulated by belief in these pretences, he gained promises of aid, and proceeding to the fortress delivered a letter to be given to his brother, and which contained assurances that a rescue would be forced. This was the object sought : the letter was forwarded to Isabella and Mortimer, and the earl impeached, condemned, and executed in March, 1329, though the indignation of the people at the abominable crime was such that no one was found to act as executioner, until a condemned criminal engaged to perform the deed as the price of his own pardon. The earl's two sons died shortly afterwards, but his only daughter, the beautiful Countess of Kent, was subsequently married to Edward the Black Prince, and was mother of Richard II. Numerous repairs were effected in the time of Edward III., and the records of others antecedent, as well as some of these, point to "*the King's Chamber near the Kitchen in the Gloriet.*" This is suggestive of the view that

this tower contained a separate suite of apartments. The middle-ward Bridge also was rebuilt with oak timber from Wimborne, but it is not quite clear whether this bridge was the second, or one at the entrance of the upper wards.

Three centuries followed in the history of Corfe, during which, although it partook of such improvements as advances in military art required, it appears to have been neither subject to the fortunes of war nor the instrument of oppression and cruelty, but during which it became the scene of refined luxury, as the habitation of some of the most remarkable persons of the time. During the remainder of

The Fourteenth Century

It was held successively by several families. Under Richard II., near relatives of that monarch had it—Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, and Alicia his wife; and after their deaths, under Henry IV., it was granted to the Earl of Somerset, the head of the house of Beaufort, and it remained with this family until the reign of Henry VI.

It is stated that under Richard II., in his 3rd year, a new tower called “le Gloriete” was built, containing five rooms.

Meanwhile Wareham and the surrounding district had been but partially recovering from their former devastations, still occasionally suffering from the exactions for the wars, to which, as a port, the town had of course to contribute an unfair proportion. The religious houses, too, suffered from the same cause. Thus in 1355 there was a writ of enquiry issued for the recovery of lands, &c. belonging to the priory of Wareham, which had been alienated and seized into the king's hands during his war with France. One Robert Gold, of this place, figures frequently in old deeds of the time of Edward III. In 1383 (6 Richard II.), the Sheriff of this town received orders, the precept for which is preserved, to guard the coast from the invasions of the French. In

The Fifteenth Century

Although Corfe was in the hands of Somerset, under Henry VI., yet Margaret of Anjou landed at Weymouth, where the

Duke took command, which terminated at the fatal battle of Barnet ; and though the Queen, probably in her flight to Beaulieu Abbey, passed at no great distance, the whole of this district seemed to have escaped active participation in the contest. On the execution of Somerset, the Castle of Corfe was given to George, Duke of Clarence, said to have been drowned in a butt of Malmsey, when it again reverted to the crown, February 18th, 1478.

During the final contests between the rival roses, "the Lady Margáret," Countess of Richmond and Derby, who had spent her early life at Kingston Lacey, near Wimborne, with her parents, the Duke and Duchess of Somerset, signalized herself by great sagacity and benevolence, and of the latter quality has left ample testimony in the chapel, and still more the noble Grammar-School (erroneously called Queen Elizabeth's), at Wimborne. Whilst pursuing a peaceable and exemplary private life, a woman's solicitude was, however, not wanting for her friends ; and keeping a diligent watch on their behalf, upon Buckingham's defeat and execution, her promptitude saved her son. Richmond had prepared to land in Poole Harbour, and had already entered the port, when his mother's messengers apprised him of the untoward events which had taken place, and enabled him to retreat in safety. It was probably in connection with this memorable escape that Henry VII., on his accession, selected Corfe Castle as the most suitable present to his mother. He had the whole thoroughly repaired and fitted up, and it once more rejoiced in splendour as a regal palace. Parliament voted £2,000 for this purpose. Mr. Bankes says "no Tudor decorations" were applied, but this must be an error, as the entire residential portion of the structure was remodelled to adapt it to the advancing refinements of the age ; many of the old doorways were replaced by new ones in the style of the period, and richly-carved fire-places and stonework were added, which at its dismantling were destroyed, or may still be found in the houses of the town and elsewhere. The marks of these alterations enable us to recognize the fourth period of architectural character in the

edifice. Surviving her son but one year, it reverted to the crown in 1510. In

The Sixteenth Century

The castle appears to have been brought into the general survey and remodelling of coast defences by Henry VIII., at the same time that he built the neighbouring castle of Brownsea, and the forts on the Solent and Southampton Water. It is only to this period we can ascribe the construction of the "New Bulwark," with the mounting of the inner battery there, and that of the outer battery on the rampart over the Place of Arms; and there is no doubt that the platform roofs of the great towers were arranged for cannon also, in the same way as the South Castle of Southampton. The two former batteries are shewn in an admirable plan of Corfe, drawn in 1586 by Ralph Treswell, and apparently connected with the surveys in preparation for defence against the Spanish invasion, as there was considerable apprehension a descent would be made in this part. This gives the fifth modification of the fortress. During Henry VIII.'s life it was granted to one of his illegitimate sons, and under Edward VI. it was once more connected with the name of Somerset, being seized with other castles, estates and abbeys by the duke as "Protector Somerset," who was beheaded in 1553.

Queen Elizabeth, for the first time, alienated the fortress from the crown, and it ceased to be a royal castle when she presented it to Sir C. Hatton, and, according to her custom, made a complete conveyance of it without provision for reversion. He repaired and decorated it at great expense; and to him, possibly, some of the mullioned windows may be attributed, although we believe this masonry to have been mostly of Henry VII.'s time. The alterations in brick and plaster, chiefly to meet the advances in delicacy and comforts of this age, are almost wholly the work of Hatton, although some small portions were probably executed under Lord Chief Justice Bankes. Mr. Bankes thinks cannon were first mounted here in anticipation of the Spanish invasion, but we should think Treswell's plan, and the general arrangements made by Henry VIII. for ordnance along this coast,

decide the question in favour of the former period. Undoubtedly, if the cannon had been removed or damaged, they were then renewed, and it is certain that Hatton put it in the best possible position of defence ; and he may have added the small half-octagonal bastion, on the south-east of the keep, to the inner or fifth ward.*

The chancellor, amongst other honours and advantages, was made Admiral of the Island, as well as lord lieutenant. Admiralty courts were held here, so that when the barque 'Bountiful Gift' endeavoured to leave Poole Harbour without due production of papers, under the restraint laid on shipping, Partridge, the gunner, holding Brownsea Castle under the Poole corporation, which had to provide for watch and ward there, fired into her and killed the master and one of the crew, for which he was tried at Corfe and condemned for manslaughter. In 1591, the chancellor died, and the property passed to his nephew, Sir W. Hatton ; and upon his death it passed to his widow, the beautiful Lady Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Cecil, Earl of Exeter, afterwards Burleigh. It was this lady, whose rejection of Francis Bacon and marriage to Sir Edward Coke, and the strange history of whose daughter by this marriage, the Lady Frances of Purbeck, formed such striking features in the private memoirs of the court of James I.

The Seventeenth Century.

The boroughs of Corfe and Wareham, subsequent to the Reformation, derived no small advantages from the presence of wealth and distinction in the former place. The latter was one of the most ancient boroughs by prescription, and had been governed by a mayor, six burgesses, two constables, a steward, and a jury of fifteen men, who chose the mayor and constables in court leet at Michaelmas. It was governed by a code of "constitutions," some as far back as in 1406 (7 Henry IV.), forty-one others, still extant, in 1450 (29 Henry VI.), and the last recorded were made in 12th James I. But in the 29th Elizabeth it obtained a charter,

* It may have been constructed in the last siege, and tradition and circumstantial evidence favour this view.

in which its old rights were established and advantageous privileges conferred, and there is no doubt that its obtainment was indirectly the result of the selfish proceedings of Hatton, who under the pretence of benefiting the town of Corfe, eleven years previously, obtained for it a charter, granting very great privileges, but the beneficial interest in which was all really vested in the lord of the manor. He had, besides, as early as the 14th year of Elizabeth, obtained for it the honour of being "represented" for the first time in the Commons by two "burgesses," who in like manner would be only nominees of the castle lord. The charter was finally confirmed and supplemented under Charles II., with such additional clauses and ingenious alterations as suited the crown at that time, and the particular wishes of the lord of the manor : and in the 2nd year of Queen Anne, Wareham received its final charter of incorporation, which, with some other boroughs of small note, was allowed to escape the general reformation of the municipal Act of 1835.

The Final Transfer and Destruction of Corfe Castle.

About 1635, Sir John Bankes, at that time the Attorney-General, shortly after the death of Sir Edward Coke, purchased the castle from his widow ; and there is perhaps nothing which more excites a feeling of regret in viewing the massy ruins, than the degree in which the virtues of that eminent man and his lady, with the singularly calm and dignified heroism of the latter, have redeemed the character of the edifice as the instrument of blackest crime and truculent cruelty, or the mere resting-place of luxurious vice. Their conduct has thrown a ray of honour to gild the last days of the fortress, which was nevertheless to fall by a treachery scarcely less base than the crimes to which it had been instrumental.

It is highly probable that some small alterations and additions were made when it became the residence of Sir John, but it would be difficult to distinguish them ; and it will be, therefore, convenient to consider the whole of the last

alterations as having been made, as most of them were, under Sir C. Hatton. When the dissensions broke out between Charles and the Parliament, Sir John, diligent in the discharge of his duties, had little time to enjoy the retirement of Purbeck. Whilst his wife and family resided at the castle, and when attempts were made first to disarm and then seize the fortress, all the extraordinary coolness, address, and courage of that lady were exhibited in a manner that has ever elicited the warmest admiration ; and her heroic defence, with the attendant circumstances, will be best reviewed in the terms of Mr. Bankes' "Story of Corfe," and especially in the quotations of that work from the "*Mercurius Rusticus*," the journal of that time, couched in the quaint phraseology prevalent, and distinctly exhibiting the party spirit which, though not estimable, serves to realize the events to the mind.*

"There is in the Isle of Purbeck a strong castle called Corfe Castle, seated on a very steep hill, in the fracture of a hill in the very midst of it, being eight miles in length, running from the east end of the peninsula to the west ; and though it stands between the two ends of this fracture, so that it might seem to lose much advantage of its natural and artificial strength as commanded from thence, being in height equal to, if not overlooking the tops of the highest towers of the castle, yet the structure of the castle is so strong, the ascent so steep, the walls so massive and thick, that it is one of the impregnablest forts of the kingdom, and of very great concernment in respect of its command over the island and places about it. This castle is now the possession and inheritance of the Right Honourable Sir John Bankes, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and one of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, who, receiving commands from the king to attend him at York in Easter Term, 1642, had leave from the two houses to obey his commands. After the unhappy differences between the king and the two houses, or rather between the king and the faction in both houses, grew high, it being generally feared that the sword would decide the controversy, the Lady Bankes, a virtuous and prudent lady, resolved, with her children and family, to retire to this castle, there to shelter themselves from the storm she saw coming, which accordingly she did ; there she and her

* Sir John died in 1644, and was buried in Christchurch, Oxford, but Lady Bankes survived until 1666, and was buried at Rislipp, Middlesex.

family remained in peace all the winter and a great part of the spring, until May, 1643, about which time the rebels, under the command of Sir Walter Erle, Sir Thomas Trenchard, and others, had possessed themselves of Dorchester, Lyme, Melcombe, Weymouth, Wareham, and Poole, (Portland Castle being treacherously delivered to the rebels), only Corfe Castle remained in obedience to the king; but the rebels, knowing how much it concerned them to add this castle to their other garrisons, to make all the sea-coast wholly for them, and thinking it more feasible to gain it by treachery than open hostility, resolved to lay hold of an opportunity coming on to see if they could become masters of it. †

“There is an ancient usage that the Mayor and Barons, as they call them, of Corfe Castle, accompanied by the gentry of the island, have permission from the Lord of the Castle, on May-day, to course a stag, which every year is performed with much solemnity and great concourse of people. On this day some troops of horse from Dorchester and other places came into the island intending to find other game than to hunt the stag, their business being suddenly to surprise the gentlemen in hunting, and to take the castle; the news of their coming dispersed the hunters and spoiled the sport of that day, and made the Lady Bankes to give order for the safe custody of the castle gates, and to keep them shut against all comers. The troopers having missed their prey on the hills (the gentlemen having withdrawn themselves), some of them came to the castle under pretence to see it, but entrance being denied them, the common soldiers used threatening language, casting out words implying some intentions to take the castle; but the commanders (who better knew how to conceal their resolutions) utterly disavowed any such thought, denying that they had any such

† The ‘*Biographia Britannica*,’ speaking of this first siege, says, “The courageous Lady Bankes, though she had about her only children, a few servants and tenants, and little hopes of relief, yet refused to surrender the fortress. Upon which Sir Walter Erle and Thomas Trenchard, Esq., who commanded the parliament forces, had recourse to very rough measures. Thrice they attempted the place by surprise, and as often were repulsed with loss, though the first time Lady Bankes had but five men in the place, and during the whole time her garrison never exceeded forty. Then they interdicted her the markets, and at length formally besieged the house with a very considerable force, a train of artillery, and a great quantity of ammunition. This forced the little town, dependent on the castle, to surrender, which inclined the besiegers to think the business done; but Lady Bankes, taking advantage of the remissness, procured a supply of provisions and ammunition, which enabled her to still hold out. At length the gallant Earl of Carnarvon, having with a considerable body of horse and dragoons cleared a great part of the west, came into the neighbourhood of Purbeck, whereupon Sir Walter Erle raised his siege, August 14, 1643, so precipitately that he lost his tents, standards, together with his ammunition and artillery, all of which fell into the hands of Lady Bankes’ household.”

commision; however, the Lady Bankes, very wisely. and like herself, hence took occasion to call in a guard to assist her, not knowing how soon she might have occasion to make use of them, it being now more than probable that the rebels had a design upon the castle. The taking in this guard, as it secured her at home so it rendered her suspected abroad; from thenceforward there was a watchful and vigilant eye to survey all her actions; whatsoever she sends out or sends for in is suspected; her ordinary provisions for her family are by fame multiplied and reported to be more than double what indeed they were, as if she now had an intention to victual and man the castle against the forces of the two Houses of Parliament; presently letters are sent from the committee at Poole to demand the four small pieces in the castle, and the pretence was, because the islanders conceived strange jealousies that the pieces were mounted and put on their carriages. Hereupon the Lady Bankes despatched messengers to Dorchester and Poole to entreat the Commissioners that the small pieces might remain in the castle for her own defence; and to take away the ground of the islanders' jealousies she caused the pieces to be taken off their carriages again; hereupon a promise was made that they should be left to her possession. But there passed not many days before forty seamen (they in the castle not suspecting any such thing) came very early in the morning to demand the pieces; the lady in person (early as it was) goes to the gates, and desires to see their warrant; they produce one, under the hand of some of the Commissioners; but instead of delivering them, though at the time there were but five men in the castle, yet these five, assisted by the maid-servants, at their lady's command, mount these pieces on their carriages again, and loading one of them they gave fire, which small thunder so affrighted the seamen that they all quitted the castle and ran away. They being gone, by beat of drum she summoned help into the castle, and upon the alarm given a very considerable guard of tenants and friends came in to her assistance, there being withal some fifty arms brought into the castle from several parts of the island: this guard was kept in the castle about a week. During this time many threatening letters were sent unto the lady, telling her what great forces should be sent to fetch them if she would not by fair means be persuaded to deliver them; and to deprive her of her auxiliaries, all or most of them being neighbours thereabouts, they threaten that, if they oppose the delivery of them they would fire their houses: presently their wives come to the castle, there they weep and wring their hands, and with clamorous oratory persuade their husbands to come home, and not by saving others to expose their own houses to spoil and

ruin. Now, to reduce the castle into a distressed condition, they did not only intercept two-hundred weight of powder, provided against a siege, but they interdict them the liberty of common markets. Proclamation is made at Wareham (a market town hard by) that no beef, beer, or other provisions should be sold to Lady Bankes or for her use; strict watches are kept that no messenger shall pass into or out of the castle. Being thus distressed, all means of victualling the castle being taken away, and being but slenderly furnished for a siege either with ammunition or with victual, at last they came to a treaty of composition, of which the result was that the Lady Bankes should deliver up those four small pieces, the biggest carrying not above a three-pound bullet, and that the rebels should permit her to enjoy the castle and arms in it in peace and quietness.

“And though this wise lady knew too well to rest satisfied or secured in these promises (their often breach of faith having sufficiently instructed her what she might expect from them), yet she was glad of this opportunity to strengthen herself even by that means, by which many in the world thought she had done herself much prejudice; for the rebels being now possessed of their guns, presumed the castle to be theirs as sure as if they had actually possessed it.

“Now it was no more but ask and have; hereupon they grew remiss in their watches, negligent in their observation, not heeding what was brought in, nor taking care as before to intercept supplies which might enable them to hold out against a siege; and the lady making good use of this remissness, laid hold on the present opportunity, and as much as the time would permit furnished the castle with provisions of all sorts. In this interval there was brought in an hundred-and-a-half of powder, and a quantity of match proportionable. And understanding that the king's forces, under the conduct of Prince Maurice and the Marquis of Hertford, were advancing towards Blandford, she, by her messenger, made her address to them to signify unto them the present condition in which they were, the great consequence of the place, desiring their assistance, and in particular that they would be pleased to take into their serious consideration to send some commanders thither to take the charge of the castle; hereupon they sent Captain Lawrence, son of Sir Edward Lawrence, a gentleman of that island, to command in chief; but he, coming without a commission, could not command moneys or provisions to be brought in until it was too late.

“There was likewise in the castle Captain Bond, an old soldier, whom I should deprive of his due honour not to mention him, having shared in the honour of this resistance. The first time

the rebels faced the castle they brought a body of between two and three hundred horse and foot, and two pieces of ordnance, and from the hills played on the castle, fired four houses in the town, and then summoned the castle; but receiving a denial for that time, they left it. But on the three-and-twentieth of June the sagacious knight Sir Walter Erle (that had the gift of discerning treasons, and might have made up his nine-and-thirty treasons forty, by reckoning in his own), accompanied by Captain Sidenham, Captain Henry Jervis, Captain Skuts, son of the arch-traitor Skuts of Poole, with a body of between five and six hundred, came and possessed themselves of the town, taking the opportunity of a misty morning that they might find no resistance from the castle.

"They brought with them to the siege a demi-cannon, a culverin, and two sacres; with these and their small shot they played on the castle on all quarters of it with good observation of advantage, making their battery strongest where they thought the castle weakest. And to bind the soldiers by tie of conscience to an eager prosecution of the siege, they administer them on oath, and mutually bind themselves to most unchristian principles, that, if they found the defendants obstinate not to yield, they would maintain the siege to victory and then deny quarter unto all, killing without mercy, men, women, and children. And to bring on their own soldiers, they abused them with falsehoods, telling them the castle stood on a level, yet with good advantages of approach; that there were but forty men in the castle, whereof twenty were for them; that there was rich booty and the like; so during the siege they used all base unworthy means to corrupt the defendants to betray the castle into their hands; the better sort they endeavour to corrupt with bribes; to the rest they offer double pay and the whole plunder of the castle. When all these arts took no effect, then they fell to stratagems and engines; one they call the 'sow' and the other 'boar,' being made with boards lined with wool to dead the shot. The first that moved forward was the sow, but not being musket-proof she cast nine of eleven of her farrow; the musketers from this castle were so good marksmen at their legs, the only part of all their bodies left without defence, that nine ran away as well as their broken and battered legs would give them leave, and of the two which knew neither how to run away nor well to stay for fear, one was slain.

"The boar, of the two (a man would think) the valianter creature, seeing the ill success of the sow to cast her litter before her time, durst not advance. The most advantageous part of their batteries was the church, which they without fear of

profanation used, not only as their rampart but their rendezvous; of the surplice they made two shirts for two soldiers; they broke down the organ and made the pipes serve for cases to hold their powder and shot; and not being furnished with musket-bullets, they cut off the lead of the church and rolled up and shot it without ever casting it in a mould. Sir Walter and the commanders were earnest to press forward the soldiers; but, as prodigal as they were of the blood of the common soldiers, they were sparing enough of their own. It was a general observation that valiant Sir Walter never willingly exposed himself to any hazard, for, being by chance endangered with a bullet-shot through his coat, afterwards he put on a bear's skin; and to the eternal honour of the knight's valour be it recorded, for fear of musket-shot (for others they had none) he was seen to creep on all four on the sides of the hill to keep himself from danger. This base cowardice of the assailants added courage and resolution to the defendants; therefore, not compelled by want, but rather to brave the rebels, they sallied out and brought in eight cows and a bull in the castle without the loss of a man or a man wounded. At another time five boys fetched in four cows. They that stood on the hills called to one in a house in the valley, crying 'Shoot, Anthony'; but Anthony thought it good to sleep in a whole skin, and durst not look out, so that afterwards it grew into a proverbial jeer from the defendants to the assailants, 'Shoot, Anthony.' The rebels having spent much time and ammunition, and some men, and yet being as far from hopes of taking the castle as the first day they came hither, at last the Earl of Warwick sends them a supply of a hundred and fifty mariners, with several cart-loads of petards, grannadoes, and other warlike provisions, with scaling-ladders to assault the castle by scaladoc. They made large offers to him who shall first scale the wall—twenty pounds to the first, and so by descending sums a reward to the twentieth; but all this could not avail with these silly wretches, who were brought thither, as themselves confessed, like sheep to the slaughter, some of them having exchanged the manner of their death, the halter for the bullet, having taken them out of gaols; one of them being taken prisoner had letters testimonial in his hands whence he came—the letters, I mean, when he was burnt for a felon being very visible to the beholders; but when they found that persuasion could not prevail with such abject low-spirited men, the commanders resolve on another course, which was to make them drunk, knowing that drunkenness makes some men fight like lions, that being sober would run away like hares. To this purpose they fill them with strong waters, even to madness, and ready they are now for any design; and for fear Sir Walter

should be valiant against his will, like Cæsar, he was the only man almost that came sober to the assault; an imitation of the Turkish practice (for certainly there can be nothing of Christianity in it, to send poor souls to God's judgment-seat in the very act of two grievous sins, rebellion and drunkenness), who to stupify their soldiers and make them insensible of their dangers give them opium. Being now armed with drink they resolve to storm the castle on all sides and apply their scaling ladders, it being ordered by the leaders (if I may without solecism, call them so that stood behind, and did not so much as follow) that when twenty were entered they should give a watchword to the rest, and that was Old Watt, a word ill chosen by Sir Watt Erle, and considering the business in hand, little better than ominous, for if I be not deceived the hunters that beat bushes for the fearful timorous hare call him Old Watt.

"Being now pot-valiant and possessed with a borrowed courage which was to evaporate in sleep, they divide their forces into two parties, whereof one assaults the middle ward, defended by valiant Captain Lawrence and the greater part of the soldiers; the other assault the upper ward, which the Lady Bankes (to her eternal honour be it spoken), with her daughters, women, and five soldiers, undertook to make good against the rebels, and did bravely perform what she undertook; for by heaving over stones and hot embers they repelled the rebels, and kept them from climbing the ladders, thence to throw in that wildfire which every rebel had already in his hand. Being repelled, and having in this siege and this assault lost and hurt an hundred men, Old Sir Watt, hearing that the king's forces were advanced, cried and ran away crying, leaving Sidenham to command in chief, to bring off the ordnance, ammunition, and the remainder of the army, who, were afraid to appear abroad, kept sanctuary in the church till night, meaning to sup and run away by starlight; but supper being ready and set upon the table an alarm was given that the king's forces were coming. This news took away Sidenham's stomach; all this provision was but messes of meat set before the sepulchres of the dead: he leaves his artillery, ammunition, and (which with these men is something) a good supper, and ran away to take boat for Poole, leaving likewise at the shore about a hundred horse to the next takers, which next day proved good prize to the soldiers of the castle. Thus after six weeks' strict siege, this castle, the desire of the rebels, the tears of Old Sir Watt, and the key of those parts, by the loyalty and brave resolution of this honourable lady, the valour of Captain Lawrence and some eighty soldiers (by the loss only of two men), was delivered from the bloody intentions of those merciless rebels on the 4th of August, 1643."

From this period the castle remained in the hands of Sir John and Lady Banks, without further molestation, until near the end of 1645, when operations were again commenced against it. Colonel Bingham, Governor of Poole, had two regiments, Pickering's and Rainsborough's, with further reinforcements from General Fairfax, placed at his disposal for this purpose.

On the 29th of January, 1646, a gallant expedition was undertaken in defence of Corfe Castle by a young officer of the name of Cromwell, the account of which we again extract from Mr. Banks' "Story" of the Castle.—"Hearing of the distressed condition of a widowed lady, shut up with her daughters in a closely besieged castle, he resolved to make an effort for their relief. Accompanied by a troop which partook of the gallantry of their commander, numbering a hundred and twenty men, he set out, probably from Oxford, and marching with a degree of rapidity which anticipated all intelligence of his design, he passed through the quarters of Colonel Cooke undiscovered, and came to Wareham: the scarfs of Fairfax had replaced their own; the sentinels saluted the officer as he passed; and he rode with his troop into the town, and directly up to the governor's house. The Governor, aware that no such troop was expected, took the alarm, and barricaded his lodgings, firing from thence upon his assailants.

"They had not much time to bestow upon this attack; therefore, in order to bring the contest to a conclusion, they set fire to a house in the vicinity, which stood near the powder magazine; and the governor, finding it necessary to avoid this new danger, consented to yield himself a prisoner, and was carried, together with two committee-men, mounted behind some of the triumphant troopers, to the foot of Corfe Castle.

"Here a large force was drawn up to oppose their further progress; but the gallant bearing of this little troop, and the besieged shouting their welcome from the walls, prepared to sally forth if a contest should commence, induced the besiegers to give way. The gallant band accomplished their purpose; and whilst tendering their services to the lady, they presented also for her acceptance the prisoners they had so gallantly captured.

"The object of this chivalrous action was probably an offer of escape to the ladies from the castle; it was not, however, accepted; and in their return these brave men, surrounded by superior forces, and not acquainted with the country, sustained a defeat from Colonel Cooke; Colonel Cromwell and some of his troopers were taken prisoners, others of the troop escaped in various directions, and a portion of them, returning, found a refuge within the castle walls.

“The course of events now shifted rapidly, and, though the lady of the castle was still as intrepid as at first, it was not so with all who were around her. The captive Governor of Wareham prevailed on Colonel Lawrence, hitherto so trustworthy, and still thought to be so, not only to connive at his escape, but to accompany him in his flight. And there was within the walls another traitor, whose conduct was still more base, and his treachery far more fatal in its consequences. Lieutenant-Colonel Pitman, an officer in the garrison, let the enemy know that if he might have a protection he would deliver the place to Parliament, which offer was accepted, and protection granted. On this he proposed to Colonel Anketil, the governor, that he would fetch one hundred men out of Somersetshire to reinforce the garrison, which being approved of he formed a design with Colonel Bingham, who commanded the siege, that under this colour he should convey above one hundred men into the castle, and as soon as they were entered the besiegers should make an attack. On this, one hundred men were drawn out of Weymouth garrison, who marched to Lulworth Castle, where they were joined with thirty or forty more.

“Pitman led them in the night to the post agreed upon for their entrance, where Colonel Anketil was ready to receive them; some of them were in disguise, and knew every part of the castle. These possessed themselves of the king's and queen's towers, and the two platforms. The besieged, as soon as the fraud was discovered, fired and threw down great stones upon these intruders, but they maintained their post. There were in fact only six men of the garrison in the upper part of the castle, for that was considered impregnable; the remainder of the defending force was placed in the lower wards, which had been hitherto the posts of danger. The besieging forces, as soon as they saw their friends on the towers and platforms, began to advance; and it was then clear to the inmates of the castle that they were betrayed.

“A parley was demanded, and the besiegers offered conditions which were accepted, but the truce was broken almost as soon as it was agreed upon; two of the besiegers, anxious for the spoil, came over the wall by means of a ladder, some of the garrison fired upon them, and the risk now became imminent of a general slaughter throughout the castle. Colonel Bingham, however, succeeded in preserving the lives of one hundred and forty persons then within the castle; two of the garrison were killed, and one of the besiegers in this final struggle. Thirty prisoners of the Parliamentary party being found in the castle were now set at liberty.”

Thus terminated a defence which had extended through nearly three years, and had at times involved great hardships and sufferings to the besieged.

The castle, now in the hands of the parliamentarians was soon stripped, not only of the rich tapestries and furniture, but of every portion of metal and timber which could be converted into money and used in the construction of fresh buildings. The dungeons, wells, and every place that could by the wildest imagination be supposed to have been made a hiding place for treasures, were torn open and probed to the utmost; the carved fire places, the sculptures of the chapel, reredos, and other buildings, were torn from their places or ruthlessly destroyed, and several may still be recognised in such positions. Then, with the ingenuity for picking the public purse which "patriots" have so often exhibited, the country was made to bear the expenses not only of the sieges, but also of the laborious and elaborate destruction of this mighty edifice, which seemed to defy for a long time, by its mere mass and cohesion, the efforts of the destroyers and the force of gunpowder, and there are still existing the entries to the amount of more than £350 for this purpose, in the accounts of Captain Hughes (governor of Lulworth Castle), who was charged with the demolition. In order to effect the overthrow, it was not only undermined but blasted from above in many places (as in the entrance gate), yet in some instances the towers were only forced into inclined positions, and so remained; in others the mine-blast only blew out the foundations, and the superstructure sunk vertically. The vast masses that were overthrown seem only separated into huge and solid rocks, indicating no minor fracture or disintegration, and numbers of these rolled to the hill-foot on their fall, producing shocks like earthquakes, filling up the old bed of the stream, and diverting its current into new channels.



CHAPTER II.

*Descriptive account of the Ruins of the Hill
Fortress of Corfe Castle.*

FEW monuments of its class form so prominent a feature in the landscape for many miles, in almost every direction, as this. The chalk ridge of Purbeck, itself a wonder to the geologist, one half of its original horizontal strata tilted vertically into a precipitous ridge, and its very mineral character changed, is at about four miles from its eastern termination abruptly broken by a double gorge, leaving a lofty conical hill between, and through which the branches of the rivulet or "Corfe River" wind round the thus almost insulated mount towards Poole Harbour. The escarpments of the hill, as usual with chalk eminences, covered with a delightful turf, are exceedingly sharp, excepting at the south-east, where the ridge dies into the slopes on which the town is built, between the streams of Byle and Aggleston.

The form of the hill top, which of necessity determined the general plan of the castle, is an irregular triangle, with the longer side or hypotenuse hollow, on the south-west, and the highest point occupied by the keep towers in the angle on the north; or it may be considered as a crescent, and is much like that of Hamilton Hill, near Blandford, and we believe was, like it, a druidical or royal city in early British times, as it was certainly one of the first royal residences in the Saxon period, and it doubtless bore the same relation to Wareham as that place did to the British

city of Hod Hill. The relation of its position to the Agglestone and other British sites is elsewhere pointed out. That the peculiar features of the structure may be better understood, before proceeding to the examination of the different parts of the building, it will be desirable to consider the following observations on the military engineering, architectural, and structural characteristics.

We have already remarked that we believe these to be unquestionably the most perfect of their time, and that the completion of the mediæval defences was achieved in the proudest period of our architectural history—the 13th century.

The General Arrangement of the Building

Is into an outer court, evidently employed as a tilting ground or place of arms, which occupies the south-east limb of the crescent, and adjoins the town, while the rise of the ground on the north afforded an opportunity for the formation of terraces, overlooking not only the exercising ground but the neighbouring country. A deep ditch, and completely distinct defences, separated this from the second ward, which crowns the western spur of the hill, or rather limb of the crescent. This was as completely cut off from the next ward, occupying the apex of the triangle, and which was but a small court with strongly defended entrances, as outwork to the keep, and to these a battery under the title of "*the new bulwark*" was added, temp. Henry VIII. (see p. 23). The great keep towers themselves occupied the highest part of the hill, almost close to the northern angle or convexity, but allowing just sufficient space for two outer courts in that direction—the fourth or priest's ward, and the fifth or garden ward; whilst the massive works of the keep, or king's and queen's and other towers, enclosed two smaller courts, and in several places, as on the south and west of the king's tower, were further strengthened by narrow towers or flankings, presenting a series of solid and well constructed walls and intervening areas, which might each successively be forced or abandoned, and yet leave the interior portions distinct and defensible.

In the design of the minutest details of construction the most ingenious provisions were made for effective defence, and to prevent the possibility of lodgement by an enemy under the walls. The hill, which is now in parts slightly rough and irregular, with one or two foot-tracks winding about its sides, wholly the results of the demolition, was evidently improved where requisite, in its natural form, by scarping, so as to present on all sides a glacis so exceedingly steep and smooth as to be practically unapproachable. This glacis was accurately commanded in every part by the loop-holes or arrow slits, each of which is carefully constructed with respect to it, so that a missile discharged in the direction of the sill would range with fatal precision parallel with the hill side, at from three inches to four feet high; and this explains how the contrivances called the boar and the sow were useless in the siege under Sir Walter Erle, as without the slightest effort on the part of the defenders, the most accurate aim was secured against the assailants' feet, the only portions left exposed. To prevent these openings being marks for an enemy, they are made without external rebates or chambers, and so narrow as to be invisible at a tolerable bow shot, and to secure this object, generally without cross slits or round ends, yet with such well and sharply cut masonry, and convenience internally, as to have allowed three or four men to work with facility in each bay. There are two or three loop-holes which were roughly cut to a greater width, but this was done in the sieges of the Parliament, in order to admit of the use of musketry, especially near the entrance gate.

The Masonry,

Especially of the 13th century works, after several centuries of exposure, still shews itself a marvel of exquisite workmanship, whether proudly breasting the weather on the summit, or riven from its position and hurled in rocky masses into the valleys. It was contrived for its purpose with consummate skill, and no such false notions as now ruin nearly all architecture and much of our civil and military engineering was allowed to interfere with its effective completion. The

greater part, especially of the outer ward works and of the advanced footing or plinth, was faced * with the most beautiful ashlar,† of close and accurate jointing, to prevent the insertion of wedges or crowbars, and unbroken by any mouldings or projections that could afford any hold for hooks, scaling-ladders, or engines; thus presenting a wonderfully smooth and unbroken surface, from the glacis to the breast-work or battlements, which in like manner were only flush weathered, without any projection, but simply and smoothly bevelled off externally and internally.

To complete these effective arrangements, as we have seen that the walls were practically unapproachable except at the gateway, in the application of the same principles singular precautions were here taken. The two flanking round towers were constructed as huge solid cylinders for nearly eighteen feet above the road level, united alike to the gate, the guard-room towers, and flanking curtain walls, so that prior to the invention of gunpowder, the most powerful ram or laborious undermining would have been useless and vain. Above this height the loop-hole bays were constructed; and for the prevention of attachment by scaling ladders, and to protect the defenders from any descending projectiles, the three towers were crowned with smooth conical domes of masonry;‡ and originally, at least, it is nearly certain that battlements were omitted, the convexity of the smooth domes simply dying into the vertical wall face;—thus giving no surface for the reception of missiles or wild-fire.

* In many instances, as in the south wall of the second ward, the more ancient and rude work has been cased with better and later masonry, especially in the parts more easily assailable.

† In describing the masonry, the editors of Hutchins restrict the term "Ashlar" to the exquisitely smooth work of the later construction. Five kinds are, however, observable:—1, Dressed or Rag Rubble; 2, the Herring-bone work; 3, the Rough Squared work, or Bastard Ashlar; 4, the Rough Ashlar; 5, the Smooth Perfect Ashlar.

‡ Ralph Treswell, steward to Sir Christopher Hatton, made plans of the estate and building belonging to that fortunate courtier. Amongst others, his plans of Corfe Castle are preserved. With them is a general view of the structure as it then stood; but the details, as might be expected, are frequently, if not generally erroneous, as the existing remains testify. Mr. Hutchins' engraving of the view includes the bastion, on the south of the keep, which, if really inserted by Treswell in his plan, would show this to have been included in the arrangements for cannon by Henry VIII., and not to have been first constructed by Lady Bankes to answer the guns planted on the church tower, as is commonly stated.

The natural circumstances of the position were taken advantage of in every other way. The indurated chalk rock was uncovered and only roughly benched out, and the foundations united with it. Built into and on the upturned edges of the strata, the towers formed but an artificial elevation of one mass with the hill. The chalk excavated from this foundation and inner ditch, being intensely hard, formed the concrete or rubble filling-in, bonded together occasionally with the broad thin slabs from the Purbecks or the red sandstone of Agglestone series, and the whole was flushed with liquid mortar and grout made in the later works from the same hard chalk and Purbeck limestone and the quartzose grit and fine shingle so abundant either in the tertiaries to the north or on outliers in the Wealden valley to the south. The thick walls thus constructed became one continuous and strongly coherent mass, alike in itself and attached to the natural rock; and the perfect union between the ashlar facing and rubble backing, even where there is little comparative bonding or tailing in, is perhaps the most extraordinary circumstance in the whole building.

The stone employed was, as we have stated in our Swanage Guide, the "Purbeck Burr," from the quarries worked by the Corfe quarriers, in the upper Purbecks of the hills near Afflington. In the body of the wall are also frequently found pieces of the Agglestone iron sandstone.

The Internal Arrangements

Were not less carefully contrived and executed. A fair proportion of the wall towers were properly semicircular bastionettes, with casemated loophole bays below and rampart over, whilst the curtain walls at important points were also furnished with loopholes and bays below, as well as the battlements and rampart above. Those which were appointed as watch towers, from their commanding some important points of view, were provided with a sort of ambry or little cupboard recess, for the placing refreshments for the sentinel. As the loop-holes, for the reasons previously pointed out, were mostly very long and simply upright slits, some of the bays are provided with slots or

spar sockets, to carry a timber staging at half height, thus admitting by the floor so provided a double number of soldiers, the elongation of the slit being far more favourable for admitting a greater number of combatants than any addition by cross slit or terminal loops.* Some of these seem to have been capable of admitting a triple party of archers. Small square oilets or loop-holes appear in some parts, but we believe these were made for the clumsy musketry used in the last sieges. The basements of all these constructions were, like the flank towers of the gateways, formed in a solid mass, united with the rock, with the first floor on the level of the court walks of the interior, and considerably above the head of the external slope.

Another circumstance of great interest to the scientific visitor is the frequent use of the stepped or horizontal arch, instead of the radiating one, in bays and other places where it was more convenient or desirable, on account of the thrust of the latter. One remarkable example remains in the cell of the guards' correction tower, which appears to have been used as a temporary place of confinement for refractory members of the guard.

The Fire Places

Are numerous and admirably constructed, with hooded flues even in the guard-room towers, and the chimney-pieces to the keep or palatial part were very beautiful. The staircases were of course of stone, but of easy ascent, and constructed of the hardest beds of Purbeck. But little, however, of the window tracery, or dressings, or of any decorative work, has survived the ruthless and determined destruction and pillage.

* The engineers who executed Corfe, in consistency with their minute study of what would render military engineering really effective for its purpose, rejected many of the then fashionable modes of treatment, which were evidently adopted by mere architects rather than reasoning constructional designers. The cross loop-holes, with arched or square-headed trefoil bays in the merlons of the battlements, so very common, and used at Southampton, York, and other places, seem here to have been wholly rejected, as capable of giving attachment to a hook for scaling. The cruciform loop-holes are seen only in the S.W. tower of the outer ward and the inner or eastern tower of the second gateway. For these variations special reasons will be observed in the form of the ground and the vicinity of points advantageous to the enemy.

The Ages of the Different Portions.

Before conducting the visitor over the ruins, we shall suggest that the following table of the principal dates of the work should be clearly committed to memory.

1.—*The Early British Period.*—The reasons for our belief of the site having been fully occupied by British works of importance, similar to those of Hamilton Hill, have been already fully stated ; but every portion of them must have been entirely obliterated and renewed, as the mediæval works exactly occupy the entire circuit of the hill top, in the very line upon which any works of an earlier date must have been formed.

2.—*Romano-British, or very early Saxon.*—The only portions, which can, with tolerable certainty, be referred to this period, are in the second ward, containing some herring-bone work ; and possibly portions of the north wall belong to this or the middle Saxon period. Any masonry of the keep was subsequently swept away or covered up with the later work. The approaches were then by the usual overlapping earth-works.

3.—*Late Saxon, built by king Edgar, with Italian workmen.*—The great keep or king's tower, the original second or Edward the Martyr's gate, with some adjoining constructions, and portions of the walls of the second, third, fourth, and fifth wards, and probably both bridges.

4.—*Early Norman.*—It seems probable that the keep and its flanking towers, and some other parts, were remodelled by William the Conqueror, under the direction of De Moulham (ancestor of the late Mr. Mowlem, of Swanage). The work of the two former periods would be almost wholly obliterated by these operations.

5.—*Early English, or Thirteenth Century.*—The whole of the works of the first ward, the first and second gateways and the guard rooms attached, with the whole or part reconstruction of the great staircase, are most probably the plan of the Protector Pembroke, as carried out under Henry III. and Edward I.

6.—*Early Fourteenth Century*.—The Queen's Tower, and St. Mary's Chapel, &c., may have been the work of Edward II. There is no record of the time at which the stone arches were built to the bridges in place of timber bearings for roadway. They appear to be of this date, or earlier, but may belong to

7.—*Early Tudor period, Fifteenth Century*.—The alterations made to convert the castle into a palace for the Lady Margaret, mother of Henry VII., were chiefly internal, in alterations of fittings, some windows, and especially of the doors and fire-places.

8.—*Sixteenth Century—alterations for cannon*.—The construction of the New Bulwark or West Battery (Henry VIII.)—the adaptation of the East Bastion for the same purpose—the construction of the South Bastion, and the fitting up of the terrace as a battery.

9.—*Elizabethan (late Sixteenth Century)*.—Under Sir C. Hatton alterations were made in brick work and with plaster; some niches for statuary, cupboards, and cesspools, but especially the mullioned windows, were in all probability added at this time. The workmanship, as well as the style of design, seem to be such as can only be referred to this period, or to

10.—*Jacobean (early Seventeenth Century)*, under Lady Bankes, same as the preceding. Little was probably done by the Lord Chief Justice or his Lady until the beleagured garrison made trifling alterations for mounting cannon, and enlarged old loopholes and oilets, and made fresh ones for musketry.

A Walk over the Ruins of Corfe Castle.

If our reader has already attentively perused the foregoing condensed remarks on the principles and periods of construction, he is well prepared to appreciate the rich treat these massive ruins offer. But if he has not done so, we request him to halt before he sets foot on the first bridge, and read those few pages;—and then, and not till then,

accompany us, or he will probably miss much he would have observed, especially if, instead of guiding himself by our plan and remarks, he submits to be guided by the unlearned young or old cicerones who so glibly offer their services.

The First or Outer Ward.

The first Bridge and Gateway.—Leaving the vehicle at one of the little Inns, and crossing the square, this will be the first point for the visitor's approach, and minor claimants on his attention will pass unheeded. Passing through a wicket, he will be on the verge of the great outer moat, which cut off the only approachable part of the hill from connection with the lower levels. It is crossed by

The Outer Bridge, which supports a narrow and rather steep roadway, on firm, bold, semicircular arches, which will be best seen by walking round the foot of the hill, and which are among the latest of the mediæval works. Immediately before us are the gate tower and two flanking round towers (see p. 39). Undermined from below and blasted from above, the tremendous force has only thrust these forward, leaning over the ditch, and reft apart from each other at the crown of the gateway,* but has blown off from just above the basement of the bays the whole of the upper story and the three domes of masonry which crowned the summits of this part. In either direction, the other towers of the outer ward are seen suspended at various angles over the hill-side, or spread in huge blocks of ruin below; whilst, high towering over all, the works of the inner ward and the lofty fragments of the keep form a noble background.

Passing through *the First Gateway*, the outer arch of which is semicircular, and the internal formed of flat segments, with the reveals and ribs plainly chamfered, and much of its soffit and sides deeply crusted with stalagmite, there will be observed, besides, the gate jambs, the square shooters' holes or oillets, and the exquisitely worked grooves for portcullises

* Mr. Banks has considerably filled this rent with masonry, so connecting the haunches of the arch as to prevent accidents to passengers or further ruin to the structure.

of two forms. Perfect as they are we only long to see the machinery which, one cannot help thinking, could have been scarcely less excellent than the masonry. On reaching the interior of the fortress the three towers will be found thrown entirely open, by the removal of their inner walls, exposing their roofs, as a triple vaulting, springing from plain chamfered impost strings; the centre spans the roadway; that on the right the east or *Guard Room*, and that on the left the west or *Warder's Tower*. Each had its fire-place and well constructed flue, and in that of the latter, which was the kitchen for the use of the porters and guard to the outer gate,* the hood and cheeks are in part left, with a locker or cupboard adjoining; but in the former, only the upper part of the flue remains, and near it was a staircase, which led from the guard room to the casemated bays on either side of, and to, the capstan or engine room, where the portcullises were worked, and the arch oillets of the gateway reached, for the ejection of boiling water, melted lead, &c. It is probable there were furnaces for these purposes in the rear wall, which is now swept away. The doorways to these apartments are partially left, and it is worthy of notice that the guard room vault springs parallel to the wall, contrary to all others; but we have not yet discovered the reason for this deviation.

The church, market square, and the base of the ancient cross in the middle, with the old houses of the town, appear through the archway, and with the distant hills beyond and on either side, form a beautiful combination, with the rugged sections of the gate tower and the openings in the curtain walls. Turning on our course upward

The first or Outer Ward; or Outer Bailey, Tilting Ground, or Place of Arms, now covered with a rich green sward, opens before us, and it will be found most calculated to gain a clear idea of the whole if we first trace out the works on the right or east side. Immediately beyond the guard room, a window of which, with marks of its iron framing, still

* It was thoroughly repaired in the 41st of Edw. III. Probably there was an alteration, introducing the improvements in the domestic arrangements, as to fire places, cooking, &c., which at this date were being so rapidly developed, and introduced in abbatial, palatial, and castellated structures.

remains, a huge block of the curtain wall has blown right over, so that the *inner* face now slopes outwardly, the outer face being turned in on the escarpment surface.

It will be observed that the walls most assailable are from two to four feet thicker than the portions surmounting the steeper and more impracticable acclivities. The towers and bastionettes are of different masonry and dates from each other and the adjoining curtain walls.*

In viewing the now fresh sward of this outer bailey, with the shattered fragments of its once magnificent enclosure, it requires but little effort of the imagination to picture the rich galaxy of the wealth and fashion of mediæval times (whilst the king, or most eminent nobles, resides in the fortress), seated in the commanding terraces at its upper part and overlooking the *fetes* of those days, when tilt, tournament, and martial exercises fitted the nobles and commoners of England for those deeds of valour, the sole redeeming feature of sanguinary records, which unfortunately form the staple of history. Here, too, was planted one of the earliest batteries of platform ordnance with which the fickle Henry sought, and not altogether in vain, to render our coasts invulnerable. Then comes

The S.E. Guard's Prison Tower, defending the south-east angle of this ward, where, against the southern angle, constructed on the thickness of the wall, and in a line with the curtain, is a small cell covered with a horizontal stepped arch, with the soffit angles chamfered, and having a small window of six inches clear, fitted for iron gratings, and having a rebate for wooden shutter, like the low side windows of churches. This was probably used as a place of disciplinary confinement to refractory members of the garrison, and was attached to the guard. The tower is circular, with the three loop-hole bays in good preservation, and the open lodgments for the beams which supported an upper floor, which was probably protected by vaulting, giving an extensive platform

* "The N. E. wall is 6ft. 6in. and the S. E. is 8ft. 6in. thick, but that on the S. W. is 12ft. 6in. below the plinth and 10ft. 9in. above it. Some of the towers have solid masonry basements over 26ft. thick." [HODSON IN HUTCHINGS.]

in the course of the ramparts, at a point which would completely sweep the surface of the causeway and of the opposite side of the moat of any attacking party. It is probable that on this platform Lady Bankes mounted the guns which dispersed the first party of besiegers. This arrangement was of great importance, as the construction of the gate towers was necessarily unsuitable for the employment of a great number of men, of engines casting large missiles, and especially for cannon. The outside of the foundations are now bare from incomplete efforts at undermining it, and the exact line of the glacis, and the construction of the footings, are distinctly exhibited by it. Beyond this were the *stables*, now totally destroyed, but connected with

The next, *the East or Flank Tower*, which was rectangular, of narrow dimensions and roof, but this and the interesting curtain walls in each direction have been completely overthrown by the mining, and their yet strongly coherent masonry torn in masses that are confusedly piled on the verge of the hill, arrested by the lower slopes, or cast far down in the gorge amongst the sheds, cottages, and mill works, which here approach the hill foot. The proprietors have here again prevented decay or accident by underpinning or propping up some of the hanging masses of masonry. The south portion of the curtain will be observed pierced with square loops or oilllets, evidently made in the last siege, to reply to the musketry from the houses and walls on the opposite bank, as here the wall commands, but is under the range of, the north-east part of the town.

We now approach the third, the N.E. or *Plunkenet Tower*, formerly called the *Pembroke Tower*, one of the semilunar bastional structures, an exquisite piece of masonry, and most of which is in a beautiful state of preservation. Half-concealed by a stunted elder, on its south, will be observed traces of a sally port, guarded by additional arrow slits, and passing outside, the footings of the tower will be seen boldly overhanging, having been exposed by the horizontal explosion of another unsuccessful mine. They are partly composed of slabs of the Purbeck marble series, and, looking

up, will be seen the shield, * said to be that of the Protector, but now known to be those of Plunkenet, still, with the ashlar masonry, though grown grey, as sharp and distinct as the first day of its execution, and placed here as being seen distinctly on the principal approach of the high road from Wareham, which winds at the foot of the hill below. Pausing awhile to enjoy the beautiful prospect hence, the inside of the tower will be found of masonry equal to the exterior, its three loop bays perfect and with a small cupboard to place refreshments for the guard, shewing that this, as commanding the approach most distinctly, was used as one of the ordinary watch towers. On the other side of it was a well cut staircase to the rampart, of which the newel and the external projections partly remain, having been constructed in an advanced work. It conducted to the rampart beyond, where the wall suddenly rises to a greater height and trends inward across the head of the inner fosse, butting against the foot of the east bastional tower of the fifth ward, which stands high above it, raking by casemented loops and battlements both the external and internal face and this lower rampart walk.

A break in the masonry at the commencement of this portion of the wall indicates a different date of work. In fact it suggests the highly probable view that this outer wall was, before the thirteenth century, enclosed by a slighter wall, that perhaps might even have been carried only on the line of the more modern saluting battery.

The *Inner Moat*, to the geologist, will be highly gratifying, as giving a beautiful section of the vertically tilted flints and beds of the upper chalk, below the mortar and courses of the Pembroke tower footings, all of which are distinctly

* "On the one that fronts the east are the arms of Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, with five fusils in fess"—(HURCHINS). It is singularly expressive,—a simple bearing, with a plain military bat heater form of shield, common at that day, and held forward by two well-carved hands springing from the stonework behind. But HONOR on HURCHINS says he is in error. The coat of Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, was parley or and vert a lion rampant. The arms here exhibited are five fusils in bend and not in fess, and are probably those of Alan de Plunkenet, constable of the castle in 54th Henry III., and the tower may have been erected at that time. The difference in its masonry from that of the other towers in this ward points to a different period of construction, and the latter were probably completed by Edward Ist.

exhibited. Looking up to the keep towers their effect is inexpressibly grand, springing from the brow of the rugged indurated chalk, here scarped into an almost perpendicular cliff, but little broken by vegetation, grey and mossy with time, and rising from the very bed of the deep ditch. Further on the dark cavities of two more mines, vainly exploded, appear below the footings of the king's tower and grand staircase. This moat is supposed by Hodson to have been first excavated in the time of John, but it is obvious it was then only re-scarped and deepened.

The *Platform Terraces* are without any traces of their former appointment of ordnance ; but the visitor may pause a moment to complete his picture of a tournament below, before re-crossing the tilting ground to the gateway to examine the western walls of this ward.

The *Hanging Towers and west wall of the first ward*. Just beyond the warder's house was another staircase to the rampart, and between this and the inner gateway were four semicircular bastion towers, which, with the curtain wall, were of great solidity of construction, and each was provided with three admirably constructed and cut arrow slits and bays. There was also an internal rectangular tower, corresponding to that on the east side, which probably was arranged as workshops for the smiths, plumbers, and other artificers, as the other available apartments in this ward were fitted up as lodgings for them and soldiers, with other retainers.* The great strength of this side shows how well the probabilities of assault and calculations of weakness and defence were weighed, as beyond may be seen, crowning the lower slope of Knowle Hill, the earthworks raised against it by the Parliamentary besiegers. The first and second of the bastional works have been converted into hanging towers, and the bold angle at which these impend over the precipitous slope will give some notion of the great masses acting as counterpoise. To appreciate the bold effect of

* "In this ward the inhabitants show the rooms where the smiths, plumbers, and other artificers wrought, which, with other accounts, were transmitted down by several ancient people of eighty or a hundred years old, living about 1710, and employed in the siege or demolition."—HUTTONS. The eastern one is described as a stable by Tresswell.—See the plan, where his name is adopted.

these, with the background of the inner wards, the visitor should return through the gate, and take the foot track under the outer face on the now rugged glacis.

The *S.W. or First Hanging Tower* is, with a large portion of flank wall, separated by a rent from its remaining part, which continues united to the west gate tower. This, as has been observed, is also thrown out of the perpendicular. That two such enormous and extended masses should remain entire in themselves, without fracture, internal shake, or disintegration, and by the mightiest force of gunpowder be but torn away from other parts, and by the removal of the foundation rock below be only thrown forward, and in their seeming readiness to fall, impend, unmoved, for more than two centuries, shews such triumph of constructional skill as most severely reproves the flimsy buildings of the present day. Here, too, the south arrow slit has been roughly crossed for musketry to sweep the bridge in the siege.

The *West Workshops* are not now traceable; but the *Hanging Wall*, a huge mass of curtain, formerly connected with them, has been thrown by the explosion, and pitched half-way down the slopes, hanging forwards and sheltering a clump of low shrubs and rank vegetation, whilst numerous other detached blocks lie strewn at different heights, or just protruding from the soil below, or from the banks of the stream, whose course has been altered by their fall.

The *Second Hanging Tower*, or *Well Tower*, is preceded by the remains or a sally port, of which even the bolt hole is still distinct. Behind this tower, with remains of an enclosing bank or wall which probably carried a roof,* is the well for the use of the outer ward, like the others, now filled with rubbish. The tower itself is reft into three portions, the centre of which is the hanging part, and the succeeding curtain is also forced forward, but at a less angle.

* Hutchins says of this, "On the next side, near the wall, is a well, stopped up, and before it the marks of a rampart, designed to cover it from any attempt to throw anything into it from the opposite hill." This, however, is but country gossip. All timber and cut stone, that could be easily detached, was carried away; and it is obvious to a professional man that the materials of such a well-house, as was doubtless here, would be first removed. The floor was sunk, as was frequently done in similar cases; and the bank was partly in the construction, and partly the debris in the demolition.

The *Third Tower* stands in its lower part uninjured, and gives another opportunity for examining the construction of the bays. Here, too, may be recognised the slot holes for the spars of the transverse shelf or platform, to accommodate a double set of archers.

The road here passed through the *Terrace Battery* or *Platform Terraces* (p. 49), which abutted against the next curtain, and it is possible, from the completeness of the other works, that this opening was arranged as a barbican.

The *Fourth Tower* is nearly perfect, the arrow slit bays, the slot holes for transoms to carry a staging, and, as in the Pembroke Tower on the opposite side, a cupboard for the guard, are all well finished and preserved. To this, between it and the second gate, nearly parallel to the bridge, and closing the west end of the fosse, succeeds a flank or curtain wall which was arranged for a double rampart, by corbelling out, the lower one giving access to four arrow slits. The whole of this part had been undermined, but the blast had failed to do more than derange the position of the mass. The masonry is so very different from the adjoining portions, and so much more ancient, that it is evident the plan of masonry of this part, independently of the works existing anterior to and with the "palisades," has been twice altered. There was, apparently, once a barbican or advanced work, constructed possibly by Edgar, or under De Moulham, for William the Conqueror, and if so this would more satisfactorily account for the internal set-off in the wall, and the slot holes or spar sockets which appear in it, as if to carry a staging, or else as the counterparts to others in an opposite wall now removed. In fact this staging was once the timber bridge here. There are also some additional oillets, but it has not seemed clear to us whether they are more modern perforations for musketry, or constructed originally like the lengthened perforations of the Keep Tower basement.* If this be a correct view we have in it a direct memorial of the

* Notwithstanding we have repeatedly visited Corfe, and minutely examined it, carefully making all our notes at once on the spot, there are numerous deeply interesting questions,—historical, archæological, and architectural, which require yet further elucidation, and which we hope future researches will clear up satisfactorily.

murder of the unfortunate Edward the Martyr, as the horse must have been less than three yards from it when his master received the fatal blow, and probably on the site of

The *Second Bridge*, which here crosses the dry moat. Both this and the outer one, as they now appear, are the latest of the middle-age works. It is composed of two semicircular arches, but all the ashlar facing, with that of the parapets and battlements, being more easily detached, was taken away by the spoilers at the demolition. Beneath, in the soffits and jamps of the archways, the sockets for the heels of more ancient timber braces or temporary spars to carry stores of warlike and other implements, appear in two tiers. The road is here very steep as it passes over the bridge and through

The Second, or Edward the Martyr's Gate.

The *Second Gateway* is very similar to the first—a square, between two round flanking towers. The west, or external one, the *Sunken Tower*, is the greatest object of popular interest, chiefly from the singular result of the mine sprung beneath it, and which rent off half the square tower and archway, in one block with the west or outer tower, twenty-three feet wide; and it is evident this attached mass, by its huge counterbalancing weight inwards, prevented the overthrow of the whole, for it is probable that the blast must have partially lifted it in the air, and that it then fell nearly vertically, but forwards, crushing away part of the old flank wall before it, and settling as much lower as the depth removed by the explosion, which could more easily disintegrate the solid rock below than the masonry above.* In falling down, it was forced forwards nearly five feet, as the

* The same mode of construction adopted in the outer gate seems to have been used here, and in fact in all the 13th century works, probably in the others. The whole basement was footed on broad slabs, laid in strong mortar on the stepped or keyed rock, and filled and grouted in as a solid cylinder or prism of masonry to the level of the floor of the lowest loop-hole bays, and thoroughly well flushed and grouted. It was this arrangement which rendered the mining only capable of disturbing, without destroying the masses. HUTCHINS says, "The left side of the gate, with the tower, is parted from the wall, and the rest of the gate having, according to tradition, been undermined in order to demolish it; but before that could be completed, the props gave way, and this side slid near half its height into the ditch." This is simply absurd, and is one of the cases in which so-called tradition appears to be only later ignorance attempting to account for

rise of the hill neutralised the explosive force northerly, and produced a sort of inclined plane, thus giving a southerly or advancing movement, whilst the whole mass was vertically lowered about nine feet, so that the crown of the arch on the west side but just clears the roadway. (See foot note on previous page). We now enter

Edward the Martyr's Gate, on the right or east side, under the inner hall of the archway. It is formed of beautifully cut segmental ribs simply chamfered, and the admirable finish of the portcullis grooves, of which there are three, will be noticed by the most unlearned in constructive art. Two of the portcullises were in whole span, with circular heel posts, but the central one was divided into five, which were probably balk timbers, faced and shod with iron, and separately worked by powerful gearing to admit of being raised and lowered in rapid succession. Behind this is the rebate for the first gate, with its bolt holes remaining, then the doors to the guard rooms on either side, having square-headed trefoil lintels of Purbeck marble. If the visitor is prepared to crawl under the half-buried doorway into the western guard room, he may be pleased by the exercise of his ingenuity to account for the indications of its internal arrangements. There does not appear to have been a vaulted roof to it, unless at the summit, but above the bays are signs of joists for a floor. There are no signs of windows in it, so that the upper floor must have had a skylight in the platform above.

The *Eastern Flank Tower*, or porter's lodge, being entered under the little doorway, and by a plain imposed flat-topped bay, shows signs of large and comfortable apartments. A cross loop-hole is worth examination. This may have been

what it had not seen and could not understand. In this case the explosion must have removed at once about one hundred and eighty cubic yards of solid rock, and the charge must have been placed fully as far back as the jamb or road-side to have admitted the vertical descent of the mass on its subsidence. So well formed was the mine, that the force was exerted not so much outwardly as southerly on the descent on the hill, causing the partial destruction and subsidence of the flank wall. Roughly calculating, but without precise measurements at hand, the weight of the tower above was considerably over five hundred tons, and that of the rock removed below its foundation more than two hundred and fifty tons; and there can be no doubt that the whole of this enormous weight was displaced, if not actually blown out or lifted up, by a single blast.

enlarged in the last siege, but as the reasons which decided the simple form externally would not be operative here, rather the reverse, it may have been inserted at first. Here the ceiling appears to have been a low segmental vault; and a roughly constructed fire place and a window looking into the ditch will also be noticed. There is also a later window, afterwards stopped, in the upper apartment. Returning, some broken winding steps and foundations of passages mark the commencement of

The *Outer Grand Staircase* from the King's Tower, by which the inmates of the state apartments were enabled to go direct to the gateway without passing through the two intervening wards and gates. It was constructed on the wall from the keep to this point, and is probably at least identical in plan with that by which Elfrida descended to meet her son-in-law, as this wall appears to be of very early date. It was, however, repaired or in part rebuilt in 1235.

The *Guard's Lodgings* were probably placed in the towers in the rear of these, which have been wholly destroyed, and almost entirely removed, as the materials were of course of a very convertible character. That on the outside was semi-circular, for defence, closely adjoining the sunken tower of the gate.

The Second, Middle, or Dungeon Ward

will now be best examined by following the wall to the left, and which was constructed on the brow of the steep spur in that direction, forming the western limb of the crescent or point of the triangle. It is defended by three towers—an octagonal one (the Dungeon Tower), and two fine round towers in the flanks, with four loop-hole bays in each. These formed a minor triangle, parted off and sub-divided by walls into two or more courts. This division is commonly called the dungeon, perhaps not quite incorrectly, but it is most likely that the whole was contrived as much for cattle pens in ordinary service, at least in case of siege, as for the more severe one of confinement, for which the loftily walled enclosures were nevertheless well contrived. HUTCHINS says

"the Dungeon Tower is said to be a place of imprisonment for prisoners of war, or such as had committed offences in the jurisdiction of the town or castle." To the left, a large extent of wall has been totally destroyed, and before us a portion is disfigured by an Italian niche, cut out of the wall and plastered over by Sir C. Hatton (or possibly by Lady Banks).

Walking round the first prison court wall, it will be observed that one loop-hole was stopped, and an apartment formed there. Segmental and semi-elliptical arches, and numerous other features, give successive dates to different parts and distinct alterations. This part contains the most ancient work in the structure, and deserves close examination.

The *Southern or Gaoler's Tower*, which is entered by a segmental headed doorway, has been destroyed in its upper part, and its base thrown forward; it was at a late period divided by a partition wall into smaller apartments, the inner one having a fire place, formed partly in the loop-hole bay, and a closet in the window jamb. These alterations must be also attributed to the favourite of Elizabeth. The beautiful herring-bone work of the curtain wall,* bearing in its frosty and encrusted appearance strong textural marks of great age, will be the most interesting to the antiquary, as connecting it with the earliest Saxon, if not the Romano-British period. In it are inserted two small windows of later date; they are now filled up, but were square externally with elliptic headed bays inside. Passing round the partition wall, we enter

The *Second Prison Court*, where more beautiful herring-bone work, and another similar to the two last-mentioned windows, with low arches, the purposes of which are not quite certain, and a later fragment of wall with a pointed relieving arch, will all arrest attention.

The *Dungeon Tower*, or *Western Watch Tower*, or *Butvant*, crowns the extreme point of the spur. Its ancient name was from *Butavanti*, i. e. in allusion to its position and

* "The portions of this most ancient wall not removed when this ward was improved and extended, have been cased on the outside with mediæval work, increasing the thickness from 3ft. 3in. to 10ft. 6in."—Henson.

being advanced beyond the more ancient enclosure, which did not extend nearly so far, as is indicated by the abrupt termination of the herring-bone work. Only two of its eight sides remain, but enough is there of its imposted and stilted bay arches and chamber windows, the sockets for the joists of its three floors, of its well-finished turret staircase on its internal side, of its plain bevelled battlement, and of a plain gargoyle or spout from the roof flat externally, to restore it almost perfectly. Immediately on the right, or north of it, in the flank wall, sufficiently complete to recognise its arrangement, is

The *Gallows*, which is of stone. Here a wide and deep recess is formed in the thickness of the wall, and from the centre of the second course of voussoirs in the arch above projects a block of Purbeck stone, with a deep notch, for the fixing of the rope in its upper face. Before and partly within the recess, is an open pit or area lined with masonry. Over this was the stage or drop, on which the victim stood, and which rested on a wooden spar or bolt, sliding in a deep socket or groove, but this was temporarily lodged in a notch at the socket head, whence the slightest touch would suffice to dislodge the spar, and throw it into and slide down the groove, when the drop would fall.

It seems arranged that, in the hollow below, before the poor wretch expired, the executioner stood to perform the disgusting office of suspending himself to the criminal. Here, also, most probably concealed by the drop before its fall, was the shell or coffin to receive the body after it was cut down. To the right of the gallows still project from the wall some slab corbels, which served as a ladder for the executioner to ascend in order to adjust the rope. Passing westward, along the north wall, was a sally port, and we then come to the fourth tower of this ward

The *Prison Chapel* (as it is commonly called). The corbels of the wall-posts, and the weathering of the roof are left, with the rampart on the thickness of the wall above: the arches of the bays are slightly pointed, but the arrow slits have been partially converted into windows, the interior having been much altered to adapt it in the sixteenth century. Leaving these buildings, and turning into the road up the

ascent, passing the site of the flank wall, now swept away and rolled in fragments below, we approach

The Third Ward;

And here a scene of wild destruction opens, which seems at first to defy all attempts at tracing out the sites and uses of the different parts. Not only the battery, but the gateways and the walls of the lofty keep behind them, are blown from their positions and piled in enormous rocky masses, inclined at every angle, and their courses of masonry turned in every conceivable direction. A multitude of plants present themselves—every spot between the heaped up fragments or on the Purbeck ashlar or chalk rubble works seeming to bring forth its own series of nature's decorations.

The defences here, before the thirteenth century, were probably a moat, certainly some stockading or chevaux de frise work; and it was at this point that the causeway appears to have been fitted with a drawbridge, as the records only refer to one. We have already mentioned the stockading being superseded by a thirteenth-century masonry rampart, and this was replaced with the battery.

The *Third Gateway* is wholly destroyed, but the *New Bulwark*, the semicircular battery built in advance of the older wall, may be traced, and in part stands, affording a good resting point to enjoy a prospect which, with the lofty towers on the left, and the huge masses of masonry adjoining the inner grand staircase for a foreground, and with the two lower wards and their broken walls for a second ground, has grown indescribably beautiful. The steps to the battery are traceable in the corner, and close to them is a fragment of a shaft or staircase newel, belonging to a more ancient entrance or flight of stairs, connected with the gate towers or outworks belonging to Edgar's or the Conqueror's constructions, and certainly superseded on the construction of these works for battery ordnance, under Henry VIII.

The Fourth, or Priest's Ward.

The *Fourth Gateway*, giving access to this ward, is also

utterly obliterated and its site piled with monster masses of ruin. Winding between these and the back of the battery, to the right, is gained the portal to the basement of the King's Tower. It appears to us that prior to the construction of the new bulwark there were, as above stated, important advanced works—as a barbican or similar construction—to defend this entrance. Pursuing, however, the winding track to the left we will first visit

The *Priest's Tower*.* abutting on the north rampart, a square building, of which only one angle is standing. In the western return is a small square window, nicely cut in double reveal and chamfering, and the whole of this must be referred to the same period as the chapels. Adjoining are several foundations connecting this with the central towers of the keep ward, and giving, apparently, a covered access to the chapel, as well as allowing two passages through them into

The Fifth or Garden Ward,

Which is the area at the extreme north of the hill, forming the apex of the triangle or summit of the crescent. It occupied the space between the north and north-east ramparts, on one side, and queen's tower, kitchen and chapel, on the south, with a small spur between the latter and the eastern wall, in which was another well. This retired spot was probably what the traditional name indicates, a private garden, frequented only by the priest and the family of the possessor.

The *Northern Rampart* is a wall of great thickness, trending gently and irregularly, or rather planned as the segment of an irregular polygon. We believe it to have been the work of the West Saxon kings, previous to Edgar, but by no means so ancient as the herring-bone work of the dungeon ward. Its construction is different from the largest portion of the other walls; it is all of random or coursed rubble work, its mortar different and inferior; it contains a

* It is possible this is the one called Cockayne or Cockayngue.

larger proportion of stone and flint in the body of the structure, and was without loop-holes. Some of it, especially near the priest's house, has work very peculiar and various of the random kind.* The adventurous will do well to mount the largest remain of this wall, which gives the best view to be obtained of the keep and adjoining towers. Our title-page sketch is chosen from this point.

Some of the communications are distinctly traceable between this and the other wards, from the servants' apartments and to the vaults of St. Mary's chapel; and passing to the back or east of this structure, we reach the well, which the cupidity of the patriots ransacked again and again, in the vain hope of obtaining treasure which they supposed Lady Bankes had deposited there. It is nearly filled with rubbish, and close by it is the site of that fatal postern gate or sally port, in the huge mass of wall now swept away, and by which treachery admitted those whose ability and valour could never have made any impression on the fortress. Passing through some of the gaps in the wall on to the hill brow, and proceeding to the great leaning block of the eastern bastion tower, the masonry will be found to have been in part re-built or re-faced. A huge cavity, left under the foundations by the mine which displaced it, will probably attract attention.

We have now traversed all the secondary divisions of the castle, and propose to conduct the reader over the magnificent remains of

The Keep, or King's and Queen's Wards.

It will have been seen that these noble buildings occupied the summit of an irregular cone, which is the natural form of the hill, and that to ease the ascent to this point the

* This wall is very similar in plan, construction, and even in the character of the bond and mortar to that of the polygonal keep of Carisbrooke Castle, which is undoubtedly a Saxon construction on a British Hill Fort. Like the wall above described, in Corfe Castle, its most characteristic points of expression,—as the entrance and parapet battlements,—were wholly superseded at later dates by works of the then prevailing styles, executed in good ashlar masonry.

access was made to wind round the eminence,* passing through the greater part of the exterior wards in succession, which were so arranged that each formed a subordinate fortress, completely cut off from and commanding the lower ones. And with respect to the two upper smaller wards, even these were so situated and contrived that in mediæval warfare it would have rendered a long siege necessary to obtain possession of the massive keep structures, if all else had fallen into the besiegers' power by any process of warfare, treachery alone excepted.

In order to strengthen this part as a keep or stronghold, capable of defence after all other parts were taken, the various towers and courts were entered by narrow doors or steep flights of steps from the third, fourth, and fifth wards, which were rather outer courts to an inner stronghold, which had on its remaining exterior other outer courts. These were enclosed west, north, and east, by the north rampart and the new bulwark, with the more ancient works superseded in the latter, and southerly by the south rampart. This crowned the scarped cliff over the inner moat, had the south bastion in the centre, and terminated in the huge solid masses of masonry we have called the east bastion tower, enfiling the whole of the east wall of the first ward, and that of the west or king's bastion tower, which received the head of the outer grand staircase, sweeping the wall on which that was formed and which enclosed the second ward, and lastly commanding the new bulwark and other advanced works of the keep. From this south-western part arose the most massive tower of all, on the highest point of the cone, and which was calculated to be defended, even after the capture of St. Mary's chapel, the queen's and other towers, and of the king's and queen's courts, the last open areas of the building. The

* This is another striking point of corroboration of the view that the whole plan of Corfe Castle is the improvement and development of a regal or druidical British fortress. It is in arrangement much like some of these, and contrary to the usual course with fortresses wholly mediæval, in which the access was made as direct as possible, but protected simply by a succession of barbicans, ditches, machicolated and portcullised gates, &c. Here all the methods were successively adopted, engrafted on each other, and perfected in many respects by contrivances peculiarly skilful and effective, but without losing the great advantages gained by the original British plan of a winding access, each part being thus effectually overlapped and shielded by all the others.

immense solidity of the east and west bastions, the only points the exposure of which were perilous, amply provided against any efforts the most powerful attacking parties might make, before the use of siege artillery.

* *St. Mary's Chapel*, ranging, as the other keep buildings, nearly due north and south, was apparently an elegant structure of early pointed architecture, and therefore probably built about the time of the other improvements by Pembroke and Plunkenet, although some points about it, and the history of the place, would lead us rather to assign it to the time of the unfortunate Edward II., when he made general repairs and decorated the place. This and all the state or residential buildings were constructed with vaulted basements for stores, magazines, and offices. The chapel floor was thus raised on rather a lofty vault, too high above the surface here to be called a crypt, and consisting of four bays. Its groining was ribbed, apparently springing from detached shafts, and this beautiful vault had doubtless other uses than either burial or storage, which are commonly supposed to have been its application. Probably, from the wall shewn in Treswell's map, the northern end was used as a mortuary chapel. The chapel itself was also in four bays, with a timber roof, the wall-post corbels of which remain. The chancel appears to have been groined and ribbed elegantly, with detached shafts of Purbeck marble; the end window probably was of five lights, and the side windows of three lights each.

On the north of it was a small attached building, apparently a subsidiary chapel or oratory, like one still remaining at Wareham church. In the 14th of Edward III. the chapel of La Gloriette is mentioned. Now the castle chapel was dedicated to St. Mary, for the service of which a chaplain received 50s. per annum.†

* The readers of Hodson's *HUTCHINS* will find this described as the "Great Hall," 46 feet long and 23 wide; and attention is called to the circumstance that the walls now remaining are nearly their original height, as indicated by the portions of blocking course still remaining. But the position of the building, and its ecclesiastical character, still incline us to the belief that that was St. Mary's Chapel, and that the Banqueting or Long Hall was that sketched by Treswell as dividing the King's and Queen's Courts, and being there adjacent as requisite to the kitchen.

† The connection of the chapel with "La Gloriette" supports the truth of the view here given, although Hodson says, "no traces of the chapel have been discovered in the ruins of Corfe."

On the west of the chancel are the priest's entrance, and beside it apparently a state entrance, which opened from a passage and flight of stairs, supported on vaulting, and communicating with the priest's house and the queen's towers, through the vestibule mentioned by Hodson as being 20 feet long and 10 feet wide, being in fact the *Porchea ante cameram Reginae*; the outer hall of the queen's tower communicating with it, and the banqueting hall and chapel on either hand.

The chapel is connected by other vaults and remains of apartments or *Guard Towers* with the *South East Bastion*, now displaced, but most massive in its construction. This carried a lofty rectangular tower, shown in Treswell's sketch, being the one called *La Gloriette*—Hodson, in Hutchins supposes because it commanded beautiful views, &c. This is fanciful, as the loftier towers had finer views. It is rather suggestive that the chapel adjoined, as we have described it, and that the name was given because of some connection or association with the sacred building or religious objects. Possibly, too, this was the priest's residence, and the tower called the priest's tower was that named Cockayne, as mentioned above. It was by the postern to the intervening vault that the treacherously admitted troops at once found themselves on the summit and in the very heart of the fortress, directly commanding all the other parts and rendering resistance impossible. The vault under the wall extended the rampart here to an ample platform, but this was reduced subsequently to its original width, by low roofed buildings over the former, giving a covered communication to the south-western angle. These parts are so broken down as with difficulty to be recognised, but the most complete destruction has taken place in the buildings which formed the other side of the narrow opening called

The Queen's Court.—Of the aspect of these the inaccurate drawings of Treswell give us some faint notion, and between the facts they so crudely express, and the more reliable ones of foundations and fragments, we believe the following

attempt at description will be very little if at all mistaken, at least in any essential point.*

The *Queen's Tower* was an imposing structure, connected with the chapel at the north by the passage before pointed out. It appears to have contained the residential apartments, and was gorgeously fitted up with tapestries and the richly carved furniture and upholstery of the middle ages and the sixteenth century, and ample and very interesting inventories are preserved of portions of these, when recognized in the places to which they had been conveyed after the confiscation of the property. In Treswell's sketch it is represented as similar in character to the king's tower, but this might be from the clumsy conventional modes of indicating towers employed by the draughtsman. It is possible that it might have been of late Saxon work, but it is more probable to have been built with the chapel, or even quite as late as Edward II. Lower buildings connected this on the north with

† The *Banqueting Hall*, or *Long Hall* of the records, with *Kitchens* and other offices in the rear and basement. These formed the west side of the queen's court, separating it from the next or king's court. This, there is little doubt, was the work of Edward II., as the roughly sketched windows by Treswell, and in later sketches, seem to be intended for two light or ventilating louvres above. All this part is, however, now reduced to grassy hillocks, with a fragment of grey masonry here and there starting from the turf. On the left is the broken down *South Rampart*, with the jambs

* The complete destruction of these parts and the removal of their materials, is attributable to the same cause as that of other parts, which were originally planned and executed for economic use, and not essentially for defence. They were all constructed with thinner walls of cut stone, equally convertible with the timber, &c., and they were thus more easily separated, and encumbered with little rubble and concrete, which for the reasons previously explained was far more difficult of destruction than the most solid wrought work. The chapel occupied one end of the parallelogram formed by the principal buildings within the outer courts or upper wards, and was, therefore, solidly constructed, especially in the basement.

† This, it has been observed in a previous note, the editors of Hutchins consider to have been the chapel. But it would have been curious to place the Hall in another court with awkward access, whilst the chapel abutted on the kitchen. Besides, whilst in most castellated structures the chapel occupied a position in an extreme ward, or out of the precinct, the great hall will be always found within or part of the main block.

of the entrance to the still more ruinous remains of the *South Bastion*, probably the latest work of all. We now pass over the site of the area of the *King's* or *Fifth Court*, and before us rise majestically the lofty fragments of

*The Great Keep or King's Tower.**

Of this now stand only the south front, the adjoining returns of the two side walls and of the east side, one pillar-like portion isolated from the return, and wrapped from base to summit in a thick deep vesture of giant ivy, whose ancient stems just appear beneath the tufted foliage.† Beautiful is the contrast of this noble column of rich verdure with the light varied grey and moss-grown walls of the other side of the keep. Before us is the *King's* or *Keep Gallery*, a vaulted and lofty passage on the south of the great tower, opening on the left into two small apartments, commanding the moat. The passage and apartments are in an advanced work, to strengthen the central tower, and which we have called

The Southern Flank Keep Tower. The apartments, formed originally only for defence, were altered, and their small lights or loops changed into square-headed mullioned windows, apparently (from the character of the work) under Hatton. Whilst the noble semicircular vaultings of the passage and original doorways remain, the inserted Tudor arches or square heads are falling out, and a large proportion of them have altogether disappeared. Here the enormous

* At the moment of correcting the proof of this sheet in the second edition, the *Builder* newspaper of the same day contained an abstract of Mr. Ashpitel's lecture on Rochester Castle, a building associated in history with this by the siege of King John, who transported the prisoners thence to Corfe. The judicious remarks of the lecturer as to the characteristics of Gundulphian and other Norman keep works, show many important differences between them and this noble construction, which, as we have pointed out, is the earliest British work of such a character, preceding the former by not less than one hundred years, and although less decorated than its Norman successors, bearing comparison with any of them for skill in construction and sublimity of design.

† A considerable portion of the stairs on the western side of the *King's Tower* gave way a few years since (in 1873), and fell down the side of the hill, with a great noise, the reverberations being heard at a considerable distance, and blocking up the roadway just inside *Edward the Martyr's Gate*. The debris were, however, soon partially cleared away, to afford ingress and egress for visitors.

strength of the building is well exhibited. Engrafted on the native rock of flinty hardness is a huge wide-spread mass of masonry, perforated only by square oilet holes, communicating with the ground floor of the great keep, and spreading in otherwise compact body under triple walls, that of the keep, the inner and outer ones of the flank tower, and both inner passages and south apartments. Arriving at the west end of the passage it opens on

The head of the *Outer Grand Staircase*, from the second gateway, landing upon the top of the *West Bastion Tower*, which is a narrow platform, capable of admitting any arrangements for defence, even cannon, and which were doubtless planted here. To the right or north of it is

The *Inner Grand Staircase* from the third ward, opening under the *West Flank Keep Tower*, a structure of similar date and character to the one just described. We believe that both these were added at a later period, and by the Normans, most probably under William the Conqueror.

We will now examine the central and crowning feature of the whole fortress. Resuming our description of it from the entrance, to the right of the piled up masses of rock masonry on the south-east, the visitor will probably agree with our previous statement that there was evidently originally an outward defence of some kind, in the character of barbican, superseded by later works.

The *Keep Gateway*,* partly in advance of the wall face, consists of a perfectly plain but well-cut semicircular arch in two ribs, on plain chamfered and quirked imposts. Its character, if not of earlier date, stamps it as not later than the Conqueror. Entering the area,† the magnificent proportions of the apartments may be imagined, four floors only being recognisable in the whole height of this lofty fabric.

* Treswell's plan and other circumstances seem to point to a gate opposite this, so giving access right through the basement to the inner court.

† HUTCHINS says, "The great or king's tower was seventy-two feet by sixty square, and about eighty feet high, the walls were twelve feet thick; two of the battlements are still remaining." The descriptions which follow do not seem quite accurate, and he adds, "this seems to have been the state prison, all the windows that remain being extremely high to prevent escape."

The ground floor shews no signs of having had windows.* Besides the gateways, the only openings that are now discoverable are the square perforations through the footings to the southern flank. A singular incised semicircular arch appears on the wall, and the deep black cavities where the ends of the girders above were once lodged shew the size of the timbers employed. It, besides, seems to suggest that this floor could hardly have been used for any purposes of habitation, possibly intended as being applicable to the purposes of a stable in the extremities of a siege. It has been supposed to have been employed as a state prison. If so, it would have been only the northern side, which is marked by Treswell as divided by solid walls. But the circumstance of a timber floor above seems inconsistent with this view; and if dungeons existed they were probably vaults in the solid rock, and below the floor of the present area, and therefore forming a basement to it.†

The *First Floor* over that above described, and opened into from the main entrance, became, as was usual in the palatial and castellated structures of the Saxons and Normans, the first residential portion, and was here evidently the *Grand Hall of Audience*, and used for holding the Forest, Manorial, and Admiralty Courts, and other public purposes. For these uses it was employed up to the time of Sir C. Hatton, and one of the last occasions on which it appears that judicial proceedings were conducted in it was on the trial of Partridge, for manslaughter at Branksea Castle (see p. 24) It had no windows to the south, but the remains of

* The windows, if any, were probably at the east side, facing the inner or king's court,—possibly, too, the priest's court.

† This is one of the points which require investigation; and, although the romantic extravagances in the amusing tale of Keneswitha are without foundation, we believe there are, nevertheless, one or more vaulted apartments in the rock below, and some subterranean passages or covered ways, such as are still to be found in connection with different parts of the fortifications of Nottingham, and even of Southampton. Their frequent use in mediæval fortifications is well illustrated in the latter place, where the strata are wholly gravel, sand, and clay, and all stone had to be carried great distances by water, and yet this did not prevent the construction of the most numerous, extensive, massive, and architecturally beautiful vaults and vaulted passages, alike for military, civil, and ecclesiastical uses and communications. There is no doubt that here, under the first floor, near the gate, was the most ancient well, in conformity with the practice of rendering the Keep Tower complete in all its arrangements, so as to be an independent fortress after all outer works were taken.

flat-headed doorways and other indications of its arrangements are distinct enough. The access to it was through the western flank tower, which on this floor formed a porch or entrance to it from the head of the two grand staircases.

The *Second Floor* rested partially on a ledge or internal set-off of the wall, above which several circular heads remain. One of them, a fine entrance into the west flank tower, has been partially lowered and a Tudor head inserted, but, as in other instances, the later insertion is yielding more rapidly to the effects of time and weather, and the stones, by their dislocation, plainly show the inferiority alike of the masonry and the composition and treatment of the mortar. Two square-headed Tudor windows, large and small, appear on the south side of these apartments, under the two circular arches.

At the south-east angle of the tower in this floor, the proportions and character of the *Inner Keep Staircase* to these state apartments will be observed. It was, as usual, spiral, several of the steps and the newel still remaining at this height, and another portion will be seen in a mass of walling thrown upon the ground. It was ample in its proportions.

The *Third Floor* is also distinctly marked by the housings or sockets which received the ends of the girders, and the luxuries which in the fifteenth century superseded the chilly grandeur of the Saxon kings are shown in the Tudor fireplace and chimney. Above appears the weathering of the roof, in three ridges, which may have been covered with the Purbeck tile-stones, but documentary allusions indicate that the whole was well covered with thick sheet lead. But little of the battlementing is left ; yet few will perhaps cast their last look on the lofty pile without wishing it were in their power to walk the extensive rampart on the thick wall, which for more than seven hundred years gave the residents the power of doubling the magnificence of the prospect from this hill, inexpressibly beautiful as it even now is.

If the visitor be not too fatigued on leaving the edifice, we would suggest his descending to the King's Bridge, by a path on the east slope of the hill near to that, if not the very

track, by which the treacherous besiegers obtained their entrance. Then, retracing the Corfe road to the mill, he will by the cart lane there enter the ditch, and thence walk round the foot of the mount.

*A Walk Round the Castle Hill and to the
Parliamentary Entrenchments.*

To enjoy and comprehend this noble ruin and the scenery amidst which it is so conspicuous a feature, the visitor must make an effort to complete his survey by taking this course. He could descend the hill by the pathway on the east or right of the gateway, and which, passing the front of the Pembroke Tower, joins the road to Wareham on the north. Returning by this, with the Byle stream on his left, he will enter on the right a narrow broken lane, winding through huge disrupted blocks of walling, at the back of Corfe mill, into the fosse which cuts off the castle hill from the town. Entering the ditch, with a mixture of detached masses of masonry, under-wood, and gardens on the left, he will observe in the escarpment of the castle hill a beautiful exhibition of the lower chalk and upper greensand outcrops, answering exactly to their several beds and their numerous included fossils seen in Swanage Bay. Just beyond this is the four-arched entrance bridge, and passing under its lofty opening the spar sockets—which probably are the housings for the heels of brace timbers in the first wooden bridge, or slot holes for joists for timber or engine storage—will be distinctly noticed. Beyond this he descends to the western foot of the mount, by the narrow path winding between it and the Knowle stream, which runs round spurs formed partially of the ruins, and with banks showing many a stony crag and fern-hung fragment, once high on the hill above. The effect of the whole is here truly magnificent. Immediately above are the hanging wall and towers, and the precipitous but verdant sides of the hill retire in folds one beyond another with exquisite beauty, crowned at their extremity by the dungeon tower, whilst the lofty keep towers rise majestically over the other scattered or grouped portions of the building in the intervening spaces. Beyond all rises the fine outline of Knowle

Hill, the continuation of the chalk ridge broken by the double gap of Corfe. To the west of the stream, which is overhung by trees, succeed gardens and arable land, mixed with orchards and farm buildings ; and amidst all, are still to be recognised the traces of the earthworks in the closer approaches of the besiegers, with which are inevitably connected the memory of the boar and sow engines.

But the principal work, the *Entrenched Camp* of the besieging force, is on a swelling ground still further to the west, and to gain it we turn up the Knowle road at the foot of the main ridge. On approaching it the present road will be found to have been cut partially through the secondary works, but the old track is still visible, winding round the north side of the chief construction. This consists of a strong square rampart and breastwork on the highest point of the rise, a ditch separating it from another to the south of it, and there are indications of minor lines enclosing a large area to the west, and which probably carried a stockade for the protection and confinement of the horses and cattle. The battery altogether probably mounted not more than a dozen guns, and the range was fully distant for the arms of that time. The choice of this spot was made, perhaps, too much with regard to a whole skin, but its distance soon led the besiegers to siege the town and turn the church tower into a battery. If for no other reason, the visitor should at least come to this place for the enjoyment of the bold and significant foreground to the fine general view of the castle and town which it affords.

Returning to the stream, we cross the Knowle Bridge, with a small but very ancient water mill on the left, variously associated with the legends of the sainted king. Here Knowle Hill should be ascended a little distance for the view of the castle. The mount under the Dungeon Tower gives a beautiful illustration of the vertical strata of chalk, which in ancient bare and grey crags starts from the turf above. Again the road winds through the West Gap, between the mount and the stream, the latter often diverted from its course by the giant fragments of towers which, in themselves unshattered, were hurled by the explosions into the gorge, and some of

them far up on the opposite slopes. Where the rivulet has been thrown into new channels, the sections showing the different deposits in the valley are somewhat interesting, and we presently reach King Edward's Bridge, over the Knowle stream, on the Wareham road, and over the Byle, on the Rempstone and Studland road, north-east of which the streams unite under the title of "Corfe River." To the left are an old chalk-pit and lime-kiln, and near these was made the discovery of cinerary remains, formerly referred to as indicating a considerable conflict at this part. But in that old pit will be seen a most wondrous and beautiful illustration of

The Great Fault of the Chalk.

In the volume on Swanage and Purbeck we have described the course of this prodigious separation, and will here repeat that whilst to the north, dipping under the adjoining clay beds, the chalk is soft and lying in its horizontal beds unchanged in form and texture, to the south the whole ridge is uplifted, curled, and then turned vertically on its edges, and the entire mass changed in its mineral texture to a stone of intense hardness and toughness.

Not only, then, is this old grey-tinted and verdured pit about the line of the fault, but the rock is here marked by greater than usual indications of crushing, grinding, and attrition, and of subsequent mineral change. Above all, there is the most beautiful and perfect exhibition that can be imagined of the channeling and striation of the adjoining surfaces, in the faults or partings, when they were ground forcibly against each other during the motions of the contortion or upheaval of their enormous masses. One nearly vertical fault especially is covered with deep, sharp and regular vertical grooving and striæ on both its sides. Then the whole mass, cracked and broken up in the interior, is infiltrated and more or less cemented with crystallized calcareous deposit in the faults, stained with ferruginous matter, and taking the exact cast of the striæ on both sides with indications of a fibrous crystallization; whilst in the larger cavities of the broken mass, it is presented in the

form of very beautiful and brilliant spar. In some other surfaces it is not crystallized, but rough and dark, like rough stalagmitic or trachytic rock, or as if corroded and pitted by lithodomi.

We now return to the town by the East Gap, and over the Byle or Corfe Bridge, with Callow Hill on the left. Looking upwards, perhaps the contending fairy rings on the mount side will suggest the notion that this small portion of the hill is in its native form, unaltered alike by the scarping of constructors or defenders, or the mining or devastation of the destroyers.



REFERENCES, EXPLANATIONS, &c.

To render our description perfectly clear, we shall in the close of the work, give a short glossary of professional terms and references, in order that the unread in the description of architectural details may be enabled to enter fully into all the beauties and peculiarities of the building, which could not possibly have been accurately described without employing technicalities, thus not our choice but necessity.

We shall here, however, give the explanatory references to the plan. The uncial ones are Treswell's, as copied into Hutchins, but the italics in each case are our suggestive corrections and additions, and the whole of the others are the result of our labours, in many instances we may say discoveries.

REFERENCES

To the Plan of Corfe Castle, and to the Description.

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ORIGINAL REFERENCES BY THE AUTHOR.


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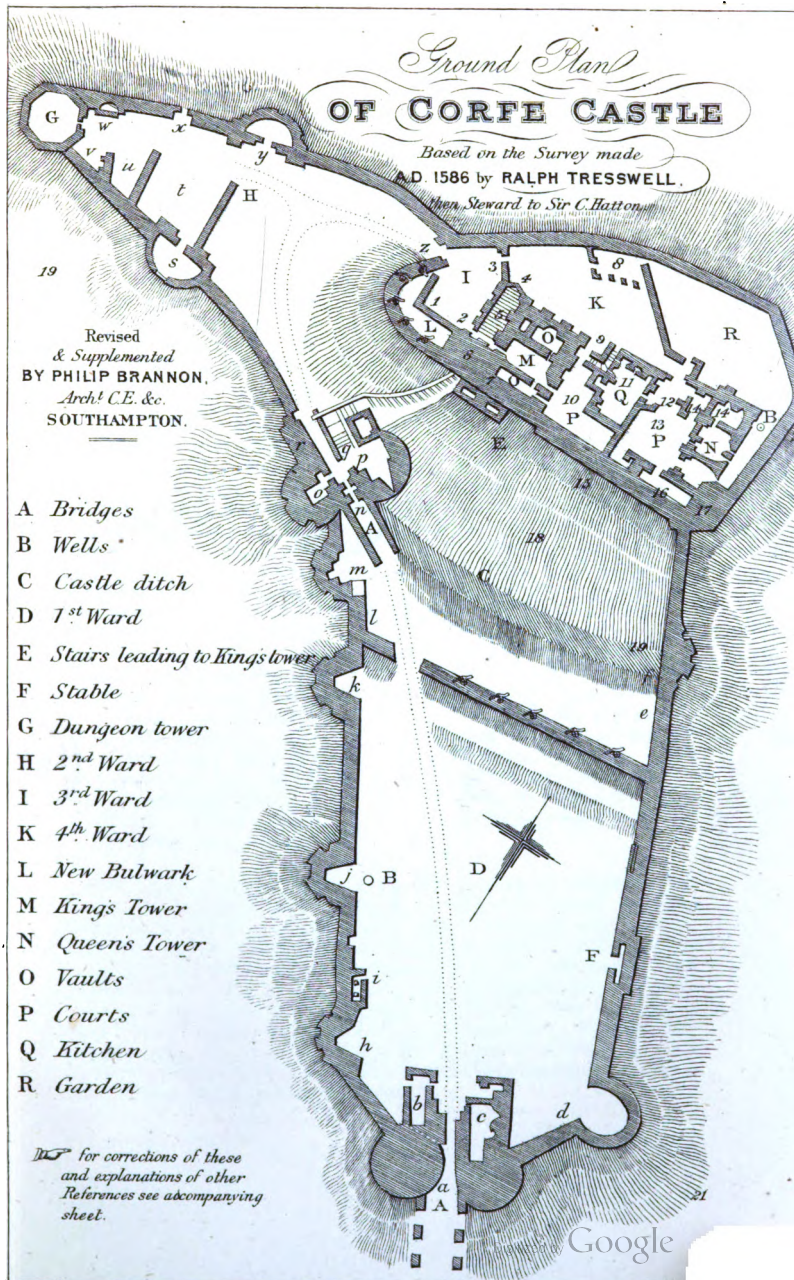
Ground Plan OF CORFE CASTLE

Based on the Survey made
A.D. 1586 by RALPH TRESSWELL,
then Steward to Sir C. Batton.

Revised
& Supplemented
BY PHILIP BRANNON,
Arch^t C.E. &c.
SOUTHAMPTON.

- A Bridges
- B Wells *
- C Castle ditch
- D 1st Ward
- E Stairs leading to Kings tower
- F Stable
- G Dungeon tower
- H 2nd Ward
- I 3rd Ward
- K 4th Ward
- L New Bulwark
- M Kings Tower
- N Queens Tower
- O Vaults
- P Courts
- Q Kitchen
- R Garden

 for corrections of these
and explanations of other
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sheet.





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N.B.—This Ground Plan does not correspond exactly with Treswell's birds-eye sketch, which in disputed points we have followed. It will be observed that the differences which exist between ourselves and the editors of Hutchins chiefly refer to the Chapel and Long Hall, the extent of works antecedent to the 11th century, and a few minor details. Much remains to be investigated, and numerous points require to be authoritatively determined; but, in common with the lovers of antiquarian and architectural lore, we gratefully acknowledge the services which the diligence of these talented enquirers have rendered to the History of Corfe Castle, and to those who, like ourselves, are interested in it.

CHAPTER III.

The Town of Corfe.

WHEN the traveller has examined the castle, and enjoyed the deeply interesting features we have described, he will naturally turn back to the village wearing so ancient an aspect, and which evidently grew up in dependance on the protection and proprietors of this lordly and magnificent fortress, anticipating many points which might serve to illustrate the relationship which existed between them. And though he will not find much of the fifteenth century, and but very little of earlier date, there is enough to excite deep interest, and to reward an hour's stay before he leaves the scenes in which the West Saxon Kings placed their chief delight.

The name was anciently spelt *Corve*, *Corph*, *Corphus*, or the whole place was termed *Corve's Gate*, &c. It is singular that though a Corfe is referred to in Domesday Book it does not appear to be this, for there are several other Corfes in Dorset, such as Corfe Mullen, and Corfe near Weymouth, &c. It claims two fairs, and is chiefly supported by the work of the stone quarries and clay pits.

The size of the "Town of Corfe" will entitle it, in modern apprehension, to no other name than that of a village or hamlet; but through the influence of the lords of the castle, or rather from its traditional dignity as the regal town of the West Saxons, it was one of the most ancient boroughs by prescription. It is now united for parliamentary purposes with Wareham, and we, therefore, have only to regard it as far as the few surviving relics of antiquity it possesses give it a claim on our attention.

The Cross was erected in the open square, and the only existing portion of it, the stepped base, will attract attention on leaving the castle. It appears somewhat singular, and even bears an air of modernness, from the small square stones of which it is composed, which were obtained from the same beds of "burr" as the ashlar of the castle, the stone being in its natural state of sizes and forms suited to this work. There is no record which we are acquainted with that gives any notion of the superstructure, but it was evidently small and simple. In entering the town from Swanage the eye will have been attracted by a group of Elizabethan buildings. The little modern structure abutting on the road is

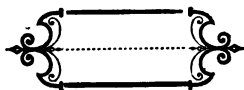
The Isle of Purbeck Museum, built by the liberal subscriptions of the resident gentry, and containing a goodly collection of the local fossils, characteristic specimens of all the beds, especially the marketable ones, and many valuable antiquities exhumed from the barrows. Admission can be obtained, and a visit will be well repaid. Immediately adjoining it are the gates of

"*Mortons*," a fine old house, generally taken for the manor house, which it is not. It is set back some distance from the road, and like the majority of houses of its date, is planned on the idea of the letter E, having wings, with a porch in the centre. It contains some good masonry, beautifully carved wainscotting and some bold fire-places. Another interesting house is near the church. Adjoining is the wretched little *Town Hall*, and not far off is an *Alms House*, for six poor people. One old building, formerly belonging to the Uvedales, contains some good coats of arms; and there is in the street to the west of the church a house with some interesting details and monograms in the hood mould corbels externally, and bold fire-places inside. But the most interesting relics are on the opposite side, especially a beautiful fire-place with moulded and quatrefoil-panelled fascia in Purbeck marble, and over the doorway into a private garden is built into the wall a beautiful fragment of lozenge foliated panelling. Both these are evidently portions of the spoils of the castle, when the structure was blown to

pieces by the parliament ; and many such objects will be probably found in the houses close by ; and it is certain that the timber and cut stone were largely used in the houses in the neighbourhood.

The Church is a deeply interesting structure. In common with a great number of churches in South Dorset it has a very beautiful though simple perpendicular tower. The north door is an elegant and delicate piece of Norman work, and the interior has the piers enriched by the appropriate addition of detached shafts and capitals of Purbeck marble. The whole of the building has been carefully rebuilt under the diocesan architect ; but it was necessary to pull down the body, carefully numbering and replacing all the cut stones. The work has been very creditably executed. The other important antiquities of this district are—the fine old manor houses of *Godlingstone*, with its ancient round tower, *Afflingstone*, and *Downshayes*. The two former have a great claim on the attention, and may have been visited on the way from Swanage hither. We have referred to these in the volumes on Purbeck and Wareham, to which we refer the reader for any information as to other parts of the Island.

We shall here take leave of our reader, and trust he will derive as much gratification from his visit to these delightful scenes as we have ourselves on every renewal of our acquaintance with them,



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Used in this Work in description of Architecture and Military Engineering, chiefly Medieval.

AGGAR, rampart of a Roman work. See Vallum.

ALMERY or *Ambry* or *Locker*, a cupboard or recess wall in any position, but specially in connection with fire-places in civil, watch-towers in military, and altars in ecclesiastical architecture.

ARCH, *Rounded Arches* where there are no points; they are either *semi-circular*, *segmental* (a curve less than a semi-circle), or *semi-elliptical*, or *horse-shoe* (more than a semi-circle). *Pointed Arches*, where composed of curves meeting in a point at the top; they are *lancet* when tall, narrow, and sharp; *equilateral* when the side of the arch from its spring to the top point is as long as the opening of it is wide; and *drop*, when the opening is wider than the length of one side of the arch. The *Tudor*, or *four centred* arch, springs with a sudden curve, then flattens at the top, and leaves the point but just perceptible. *Ogee* arch is one in which the top part is formed by two convex curves turning upward, contrary to the curve of the haunches. *Horse-shoe-pointed* when the curve turns in below the spring and on the impost. *Spring* is the commencement of the curve of arch above the upright side; *impost*, the top of the upright side, generally marked by a moulding of some kind; *haunch*, the side; and *crown*, the top of an arch. An arch is *stilted* when the straight line is carried above the impost mould.

ARRIS, the sharp projected angle of any cut stone.

ARROW SLITS, openings in walls or battlements for the discharge of missiles. They are of various forms, and frequently terminate in round holes, *oillets* or *loops*. These slits are vertical and plain, or with an oillet or loop at the bottom, or both bottom and top, or a plain cross, or one with oillets terminating each arm, &c. At Corfe the most simple and yet perfect form was adopted.

ASHLAR, squared and smooth-faced stone work, *tooled*, if tool marks remain; or *rubbed*, if rubbed off by water in hard, or "*dragged*" in soft stone.

ASHLERING, or *Ashler pieces*, or *wall side posts*, upright timbers rising from the wall to the rafter, or in the sides of apartments in roofs.

BALK or *balk timbers*, whole square timbers or beams.

BALLIUM (lat.), *Baille* (fr.), *Bail*, *Bailey*, the court or ward of a fortress in each successive enclosure. *Bailey*, as an officer's title, from the person in charge of a ward.

BANQUETTE, the narrow raised platform or bank close to the parapet or breastwork, to enable defenders to shoot over it, and raised from two to five feet above the general level of the rampart walk or *terre pleine*.

BARBICAN, the advanced work before the gateway of a town or fortress, containing an exterior gateway, and generally consisting of flank walls connecting the two, sometimes a ditch and drawbridge between, &c.

BASTION, a projection of the wall beyond the general line, and of any shape. Mostly used in modern militals : anciently, the bastional works, as at Corfe, mostly took the form of towers externally, although there and at most other places casemated to or above the rampart level, (now called the *terre pleine* when broad), and with the lofty platform at its summit battlemented as the general line of the wall.

BATTERY, a work carrying cannon, the purpose of which is to destroy objects or works at a distance, and not chiefly to sweep the lines of its own entrenchment.

BATTEMENT, the indented parapet of a castle wall (afterwards used as a form of decoration), sometimes applied to the rising portions specially. So *Crenelles*, *Crenaux*, special terms for the indents or lower portions, are sometimes used as a term for the whole. *Embrasure*, however, is invariably used to express the opening or indent ; *Merlon*, the rising battlement, specially sometimes for the arch-covered niche and loop-hole in a large battlement. *Cop*, distinctly the rising part, hence *Coping*.

BAY, *Travie*, *Compartment*, the successive portions in the side of a building marked or separated by piers or shafts, or in thick walls by successive recesses corresponding thereto, or the recesses accompanying windows or loop-holes.

BAY WINDOW, a projecting square, curve, or polygonal window, or *Hall Oriel* when rising from the ground, or *Chamber Oriel* when in an upper story, corbelled or bracketed out. *Bay-stall*, the seat in a window, &c.

BEVEL or *bevil*, a slope to a wall coping, moulding or horizontal surface, the truncating of a longitudinal angle. *Bevil*, *splay*, *cant*, or *chamfer*, all mean the same fundamentally, i. e., the oblique cutting of an angle, producing a new face ; but properly bevel or cant refers to horizontal surfaces and soffits, splay to the oblique widening of door or window cheeks, and chamfer the cutting off an arris or angle in arch mouldings, &c., on a small scale.

BLOCKING COURSE, a plain course in a cornice, but generally means one having projecting and retiring squared blocks—in classic architecture called *Denticels*.

BOND, the arrangement of stones and bricks to tie each other firmly. *Bonded Stones*, well locking into each other. *Bonders*, bond stones, binding stones, through stones, those of extra size and flat to tie the whole together. *Bond timbers*, beams for same purpose.

BOSS, the ball of ornament at the intersection of ribs, mouldings, &c.

BREASTWORK, the parapet reaching breast high for shooting over, &c.

BROACH, to turn in the angles at the top of a tower with a widening slope.

BUTTRESS, a projection of the wall for strength. The little slopes which narrow a buttress in stages are *sets-off*. A *flying buttress* is where the lower part is open, and formed by a half arch.

BULWARK, any particular wall, generally applied to a distinct or advanced work. *Bulwarks*, the whole defences.

CANOPY, the moulded arches and decorations, ornamentally surmounting other arches or openings.

CASEMATES, casemated embrasures, or large loop-holes worked in chambers vaulted over, and generally carrying a rampart or platform above.

CHAMFER. See Bevel.

CHEEK, the side of a fire-place or other opening. *Jamb* means the whole stone or timber forming the side.

CINQUEFOIL. See Feathering.

CONCRETE, a mass of solid walling formed by mixing gravel or small stones with mortar or cement.

CORBEL, a projecting block, either plain or moulded, or carved into a head or bunch of foliage, to serve as a springing point for a groining, moulding, or shaft; as dripstone corbels, vaulting shaft corbels, &c. *Corbel Table*, a series of corbels carrying a projecting face. The *Block*, *Bracket*, &c., are varieties of the same thing. *Corbelling out* is to support by a series of successive projections.

COPING, the top course of stones on a wall or parapet See *Battlement*.

CROCKETS, little bunches of foliage ornamenting the slopes of gables, pinnacles, &c. A *Finial* is a larger bunch carried on the top of the pinnacle or foot of a pendant, &c.

CRYPT, an underground vault in a church.

CURTAIN, the line of wall intervening between projecting defences, as bastions, towers, &c.

DATE, any slight elevation of one part of a floor above another, and separated by one or more steps from the rest. Specially the raised floor of a chancel.

DISCHARGING, *Constructive*, or *Relieving Arch*, an arch in the body of a wall, to relieve the true arch or opening from undue pressure.

DORMER-WINDOW, a window projecting from the eaves or surface of the roof to light the apartments formed in it above the wall.

DRESSINGS, the finished wrought work to the angles, openings, and horizontal decorations, architraves, friezes, cornices, &c., of a building.

DRIP, *weathering*, *weather mould*, *water table*, mouldings to throw off water.

EMBRASURE, (see *Battlement*), sometimes applied to the opening of a window from exterior, windows being in fortresses simply crenelles covered over by the casemates or upper floors of towers.

ENFILADE, to sweep the surface and faces of a wall by the point blank missiles or fire from a line crossing it at right angles.

EXTRADOS, or *Back*, the upper surface of arch stones, as opposed to the *soffit*, *soffete*, or *intrados*, the under and inner surfaces of arches.

FEATHERING, or *Foliation*, the ornamenting of openings, arches, circles, squares, triangles, panels, &c., with little semicircles called *cusps*, the projections formed by their meeting being *points*. When three of these cusps are used it is called a *tre-foil*, and when four *quatre-foil*, when five *cinque-foil*, when more, *six-foil*, *eight-foil*, &c. When the insides of these cusps are ornamented by another set of smaller cusps and points they are said to be *double feathered*.

FILLET, a small flat square moulding.

FILLING IN, or *Backing*, the common material forming the body of the wall, behind or between the faces.

FLANK WALL, *Tower*, &c., the sides of a projecting or principal work.

FLUSH, to *flush*, full and even; to make so, &c.

FOOTING, the bottom of a wall immediately below the surface, generally spreading out to gain a solid bearing on the foundations.

FOSS, the moat or ditch. In mediæval works ditches generally were wholly in the earth-works—not as in modern fortifications, in which the inner side or *scarp*, and outer side or *counterscarp*, are both of ashlar masonry. In fact the use of cannon has created a complete inversion of the positions of the earth-works and masonry. Now, the latter is below and in the ditch concealed by the earth-works, whenever practicable. In mediæval and antique engineering, the masonry crowned the summit of earth works, an arrangement profoundly scientific in respect to ancient appliances of attack and defence.

GABLE, the triangular head at the ends of mediæval buildings, corresponding with the roof, nearly the same as *pediment*, but without the horizontal base line of the latter, and of steeper “pitch,” that is slope of the sides.

GARGOYLE, or *Gurgoyle*, projecting stone spout for water, generally grotesquely carved.

GIRDER, the chief beam of a floor, supporting smaller cross ones or *joists*.

GLACIS, the exterior slope of earth; in mediæval works, at the base of the wall or on the scarp; in modern. wholly outside the works or beyond the counterscarp. See *Fosse*.

GRANGE, the farm or barn of a monastery. Many examples exist in Dorset.

GROIN, *Groinings*, the intersecting angles of vaulting.

GROUT, liquid mortar poured into walls at successive stages to consolidate the whole into an entire undivided mass.

HAGIOSCOPE, or *Agioscope*. See *Squint*.

HERRING-BONE MASONRY, stones on edge standing obliquely, and each course leaning in opposite directions.

HILL-FORT, early British and Belgic earthwork fortresses on the summit of hills; the elevation in some cases partly artificial—much like our modern redoubts in similar situations.

HOOD, *Hood-mould*, or *Label*, a moulding projecting over an arch, &c.—*Hooded-flue*, projecting chimney front over a fire-place.

HORIZONTAL ARCH, masonry over an opening, supporting itself by radiation in the stones; or an arch in form, made by projecting different horizontal courses over each other. If it is *stepped*, the form is that of successive corbels instead of one smooth line of soffit. See *Arch*.

HOUSING, the opening in a wall to receive a timber and allow the air to pass round it to preserve it from rot,

INCISED, shallow cut lines in stone, &c., are so termed.

IMPOST, the moulding at the top of piers, just below the spring of the arch.

JAMB, side stone or post of a door or window. See *Cheek*.

JOISTS, secondary timbers immediately bearing the boards of a floor. See *Girder*.

KEystone, centre crown stone of an arch.

KISTVAEN, or *Cist*, a vault for a corpse, formed of long side and covering slabs—early British and Saxon mode.

LEAN-TO, a sloping roof against a wall. *Lean-to Arch*, the early Saxon form of arch for small doors, of two sloping pieces leaning together and forming a triangular head. A fine example at Worth Church.

LINTEL, the top stone or beam of a flat-headed opening.

LOCKER. See Almery.

LOOP-HOLE. See Arrow Slit.

LOUVRE, an open window or *Luffer*, the oblique boards or slabs, *luffer boarding*, in bell loft windows, to emit the sound; in Purbeck of the thin slabs of stone.

MACHICOLLATIONS, the small arches carried on corbels upon the summit of walls, and supporting an advanced parapet or battlement, and sometimes a partial small *banquette*; the open arches enabled the defenders to sweep the wall and glacis at the foot of the wall, and the battlements to aim at more distant objects.

MOAT. See Fosse. **MULLION**, the upright division of a window.

NEWEL, the central shaft of a winding staircase.

OGEE. See Arch. **OILLET**. See Arrow Slit. **ORIEL**, See Bay.

PATEEA, a dish. Romano-British *patera* abundant in Dorset. In architecture, a dish-shaped ornament. **PEDIMENT**. See Gable.

PIERS, the narrow pieces of wall between and supporting the arches in the inside of buildings. They may be either round, square, octagonal, or moulded. Their great source of enrichment is the surrounding them with *shafts*, having in large buildings the appearance of a cluster of columns.

PINNACLES, small spires for ornament, they generally terminate with a *finial*, and are often enriched at the sides by *crockets*, as bunches of ornamental foliage, &c., are called.

PORTCULLIS, a huge cross framework with pointed iron-shod posts in a gateway, lifted and falling rapidly by machinery.

POSTERN GATE, a small gate or sally-port. **QUOIN**, a corner stone.

QUIRK, *Quirked*, a sharp incised line in mouldings.

RAMP, the slope on the side of a wall to reach the rampart or walk, used in modern fortifications for the easy ascent of cannon interiorly. In some ancient British and Belgic works for the driving in of cattle on sides distant from the gates. In such cases additional protection was secured by advanced or overlapping works.

REEREDOS, the decorated wall or screen at the back of an altar.

REBATE, or *Rabbet*, a square recess on one side of a door or window jamb, lintel, sill post, or board, to receive a corresponding projection in the edge of a board, door or window frame.

REDOUT, a detached and advanced work, generally round and of earth, and formed as a complete entrenchment about the crest of a hill.

RELIEVING ARCH. See Discharging Arch.

REVEAL, the side of an opening turning in from the face of the wall.

RESPOND, half pillar on a wall, corresponding to pillars which stand detached.

RIBS, the out band of stone supporting or decorating groins, vaults, &c. *Ribs* are thus projecting mouldings crossing the inside of roofs, the main lines following the intersections of the vaulting or groining. *Fan Tracery* is where these ribs are multiplied, branched, and enriched, so as to cover the roof with a fan-like panelling.

RING, popular common name for the circular hill-forts when two or more lines of entrenchment occur.

ROCK ALTAR, the huge hillocks of stone carved into form for altars, as the Agglestone. See Swanage and Bournemouth Guides.

RUBBLE, rough stone used in walling; said to be *random* when the whole wall is so built without courses; *coursed*, when at different heights it is brought to a level; *flat* or *rag*, when the stones are in thin slabs and so laid.

SALLY-PORT, a small door for garrisons to issue for attacking.

SCARP. See Fosse. **SEDILIA**, seats in the wall of a church.

SEGMENTAL. See Arch.

SHAFTS, very slender pillars, used as ornaments in windows, doors, &c.; at the angles as *angle shafts*; to form a commencement for the groining of roofs as *vaulting shafts*, &c.

SILL, or *Cill*, the bottom flat beam or stone of an opening.

SLOT, *Slot-Hole*, generally a hole or chamber for a moveable beam, slot-bar, or spar to rest in.

SOFFIT. See Extrados.

SPANDRELS, when an arch is enclosed by a square; the two corner spaces over the sides of the arch; generally any similar corners in tracery, &c.

SPAR, a piece of timber, or pole.

STOCKADES were used by the British, fixed on low embankments, chiefly for cattle; their form still indicated by the existing banks.

SQUARE-HEADED TREFOIL, a flat-headed door or window opening, or panel with a quarter curve in each angle.

SQUINT, *Hagioscope*, *Agioscope*, the oblique archway in the end wall of an aisle, to enable the worshippers there to see the ceremonies at the Altar.

TABLETS, projecting mouldings. The horizontal moulding on the top is the *cornice*; that at the foot where the wall thickens, *basement*; a horizontal moulding between these is a *string*.

TRACERY, the ornamental divisions in the upper part of windows, panelling, &c. It is the chief mark of the different styles. It is *Geometrical* when composed of geometrical figures, as circles,

triangles, &c., joined together, rather than produced from each other; it is *Flowing* when the forms blend into each other in easy flowing lines; *Flamboyant* or *Flaming* when the lines trend with such a peculiarity of character and direction as to assume the form of flames; *Wheel* or *Radiating* when filling a circle in regular radiations from the centre; and, lastly, *Perpendicular* when the majority of the lines are of that character, with arches connecting them.

TRANSOMS, the horizontal divisions or cross bars of windows.

TREFOIL. See Feathering.

TRILITHON, Druidical monument of three stones.

TUMULUS, *Tumuli*, or *Barrows* are of three forms; ordinary or conical; long or ridge shaped, or "giant" or "King's Barrows"; and clustered and entrenched, or "Druids' Barrows."

TILE STONES, thin slabs used as tiles or slates.

VALLUM, the ditch of a Roman earthwork, confounded by many dictionaries and writers with the rampart, wall or parapet. This want of distinction renders the comprehension of the highly scientific works of their engineers extremely difficult. *Vallum* (hence valley, &c.) was the moat, *Agger* (hence aggregation) the bank or rampart—the *heaped-up part*.

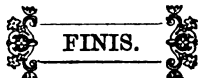
VICINAL WAY, branch or secondary road of the Romans to the neighbourhood of the great stations.

VAULTING, covering any opening at any height with arched masonry.

WALL POST, upright post to support a roof resting against and some way down the wall.

WARD. See Ballium.

WEATHERING. See Drip.



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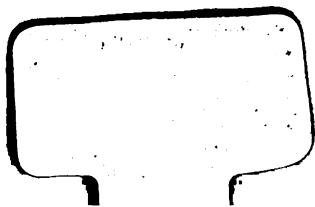
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